SKELMERSDALE
Champion
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School's grand effort for charity

Ollie's a Champ in deed!

Charity banks £1,700 boost – courtesy of TSB

Jill Boardman receives the cheque for £900 from the TSB

A YEAR of fundraising for children's charity Twinkle House by staff and customers at the TSB bank in Skelmersdale was rounded off with the presentation of a cheque for £900.

That brought the total raised by the bank for the charity based at Gorsey Place in East Gillibrands to £1,700.

It followed a pledge by branch manager Alison Thompson to raise £500 for Twinkle House – a total they soon bypassed.

Throughout the year there have been a variety of fundraising activities, including mortgage adviser Matt and local manager Jason taking part in a sponsored Hike It or Bike It event.

Matt also did the bank's triathlon, while the branch ran a prize draw for customers

TSB also donated £100 to Twinkle House to help with the charity's Christmas decorations and more than £400 from the manager's fundraising weight loss challenge.

Jill Boardman, chief executive of Twinkle House, said: "We are so proud of Alison, her fantastic team and customers of the TSB in Skelmersdale who have contributed to raising this amazing amount. We send our very sincere thanks to each and everyone of them."

GEMMA'S DREAM WEDDING GOAL

Brave cancer patient goes public to raise awareness of melanoma

By **Ollie Cowan**

AFTER making international headlines with her heatbreaking story, brave cancer patient Gemma Cottam has set herself a new goal.

The 25–year–old from Skelmersdale went public about her illness with the aim of raising awareness of the dangers around melanoma – the most common form of cancer in 25 to 29–year–olds.

Now supermarket worker Gemma is focusing on the next step of her journey – attempting to plan her dream wedding!

When fiancée Paul proposed to her in August Gemma was on top of the world but just a matter of weeks later she discovered that a mole she had removed from her left temple was cancerous and she had Stage 2 melanoma.

Wedding plans had to be put on hold as all the funds the couple had saved up went towards fighting the disease.

And worse was to follow in November when, after surgery, it was revealed that the cancer had spread to her lymph nodes and she now had Stage 3 melanoma leaving Gemma "heartbroken."

She said: "With my fiancée and mum besides me, I was told that the cancer had spread to my lymph nodes and I was now Stage 3 – and once again my world had been turned upside down

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Gemma Cottam has seen her awareness campaign reach across the world

"We were so sure I was going to get the all–clear. I felt numb."

Next followed a bigger operation, leaving Gemma with a big scar on her throat and behind her ear.

But she was determined to spend Christmas with her loved ones. "I basically begged the doctors to let me go home in time for Christmas.

"I had my stitches removed on Christmas Eve, along with some physiotherapy for damage to the tendons in my left arm during the surgery.

"I have my results appointment for January 13 so I am keeping everything crossed till then – these next few weeks are going to be emotional and hard but I'm not giving up, I know I'll beat cancer!"

Gemma is keen to warn of the dangers of leaving moles unchecked.

She said: "I don't want to scare anyone but this is cancer. I'm a lucky one – I found mine early, but if I'd left it any longer...well, it doesn't bear thinking about.

"Raising awareness is vital as melanoma is the most common form of cancer for young adults between 25 and 29 and the second most common form of cancer those between 15 and 27."

After Gemma posted her story to social media website Facebook it made international headlines, being read as far afield as Australia, Indonesia and Hong Kong.

Now Gemma's family are appealing to kind–hearted souls across the country to help save her wedding day,

• *Continued on Page 3*

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Information evening for potential adopters

PEOPLE in West Lancashire interested in adopting are invited to attend an information evening orgsanised by Lancashire County Council next Tuesday, January 12.

The event will be held from 6 to 7.30pm at County Hall, Fishergate Hill, Preston.

It will open with a short presentation after which members of the county council's adoption team, including social workers, will be available to answer questions, talk through the process and offer confidential advice.

Adoptive parents are needed for children from young babies up to eight years of age, and particularly for the following groups:

- Children aged over four of either gender.
- Children with special needs, disabilities or unpredictable medical issues.
- Sibling groups of two or more children.
- Boys of all ages.
- Dual–heritage children of all ages.

County Councillor Matthew Tomlinson, Lancashire's cabinet member for children, young people and schools, said: "We need people from all backgrounds to offer a permanent home and family to children who are not able to live with their birth family.

"You must be over 21, and live in Lancashire or close by, but whatever your race, gender, sexuality, living arrangements, age or employment status we want to hear from you."

For more information visit lancashire.gov.uk/adoption or call the adoption team on 0300 123 6723.

County Councillor Matthew Tomlinson

Row over link road scheme start date

By Danielle Thompson

Councillors at odds over when Tarleton bypass should be built

A ROW has broken out over a proposed bypass in Tarleton.

The Green Lane Link Road scheme would, it is claimed, help reduce the number of accidents in rural areas around Tarleton as it will be designed to take agricultural and horticultural vehicles to the A565 and so relieve congestion.

A case was put forward last year for delivering the scheme earlier to improve road safety.

West Lancashire Borough Councillor for North Meols, Malcolm Barron, who commissioned two independent surveys into accidents in the area, believes that bringing forward the development from its proposed date of 2019/20 would cut the number of incidents.

However, Lancashire County Councillor John Fillis, the county's cabinet member for highways and transport, is against bringing forward the development after a study by the authority which looked at recorded injury collisions in that area over the last five years concluded that it would not significantly reduce casualties.

The county council's study, which covered the road network in Tarleton and Banks north of the A565 to the district boundaries of Southport and Preston, found that there were 137 recorded injury collisions from 2010 to 2014.

An analysis of the collisions, which looked at factors including speed, vehicle movements and weather conditions, indicated that the creation of the link road could reduce collisions by around two per year due to the re–routing of HGVs and reducing congestion, with a 7% reduction in injuries.

County Councillor Fillis said: "Whilst I want to reduce the number of collisions and injuries on our highway network, it is clear that the Green Lane link road would not make a significant contribution to the reduction of collisions, and at £4million it is not a cost–effective way to achieve this.

"The study confirms that the potential road safety benefits are not a viable justification for bringing the scheme forward as has been suggested."

But Councillor Barron, who lives in Tarleton, said: "The recent report submitted by Councillor Fillis makes no mention of the accidents on the A565 and only discusses the situation north of the A565. There were 42 collisions resulting in 81 casualties – 21 serious and one fatal – which occurred on the A565 in a five–year period, a terrible toll.

"The link was approved in 2010 for completion in 2015/16 but Councillor Fillis has delayed this by four years. My recommendation is that the link, which has already had more than £250,000 spent on it, was always the best possible way to reduce the appalling toll.

"The danger and unfitness of the roads in the villages make it even more urgently required."

- Members of the public are invited to attend a meeting on the Green Lane Link on Friday (January 8) starting at 8pm at Our Lady's Catholic Church Hall, Hesketh Lane, Tarleton. Speakers include South Ribble MP Seema Kennedy, county, borough and parish councillors and road transport experts.

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Taxpayers to foot £230,000 bill for Whitemoss inspection

Report by **Henry James**

TAXPAYERS will have to pay £232,252 of the £552,982 bill that the Planning Inspectorate has charged for the examination of the Whitemoss Landfill Western Extension.

The figures were revealed by Skelmersdale North Councillor Neil Furey who submitted a Freedom of Information request to the Planning Inspectorate.

However, Whitemoss bosses have defended the outlay on the grounds that the extension will help deliver local jobs.

The secretary of state decided to grant development consent to the proposed Whitemoss hazardous waste tip extension last year, following the work of the Planning Inspectorate. The extension will see 150,000 tonnes of hazardous waste disposed annually at Whitemoss until 2035.

Councillor Furey commented: "So taxpayers have been left with a massive bill for the costs of this Whitemoss Landfill Western Extension. This bill has been created because Whitemoss decided to ignore the concerns of local residents and bypass local democracy in order to proceed with its plans to dump thousands of tons of toxic waste in Skelmersdale.

"Campaigners and local residents have fought a long battle to stop this extension. I expect they will be very disappointed to learn that taxpayers will be picking up this massive bill to allow thousands of tons of toxic waste to be dumped in Skelmersdale for the next 20 years.

"Whitemoss Landfill has dumped on Skelmersdale and dumped on taxpayers. Whitemoss should be picking up all these costs, not taxpayers."

Information supplied to Councillor Furey by the Planning Inspectorate also shows that they spent a total of 3,135 man hours working on the extension.

Rob Routledge, managing director of Whitemoss Landfill Ltd, responded: "The process for submitting a nationally significant infrastructure project such as this is set out by parliament.

"Whitemoss Landfill Ltd. has no control over this and merely follows the process as prescribed by legislation. Similarly we have no control of the time scales and costs associated with the process and have paid the Planning Inspectorate all appropriate costs.

"As a company, we have complied with all requirements and invested a great deal in this project which will help deliver local jobs, ensure that items can continue to be recycled and that brownfield sites can be brought back into use for much–needed homes."

Councillor Neil Furey pictured at one of the protests against the Whitemoss extension

Doctor's plea for support to set up diabetic service

By **Henry James**

AN Up Holland doctor has issued a rallying call to health body West Lancashire Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) to support his scheme to develop a dedicated local service for diabetics so he can secure £40,000 worth of funding.

The Champion reported in August how NHS England had agreed the funding, but West Lancashire CCG also need to give it the thumbs–up.

Over the last two years, The Matthew Ryder Clinic in Dingle Road has developed as a specialist diabetic practice and in November it was a finalist again in the Diabetes Team of the Year category at the National GP awards.

The service is led by Dr Patrick Ryder who believes that Skelmersdale would benefit greatly from a dedicated local service for diabetics, due to "its socioeconomic demographic and high prevalence rate."

Dr Ryder added that statistics he had collected showed that of the 5,808 people on the diabetes register for West Lancashire, more than half are in Skelmersdale.

Bosses at West Lancashire CCG visited the centre in 2015 and Dr Ryder commented: "We are still awaiting an update from West Lancashire CCG and we are concerned we might lose the funding. The money is there waiting for us."

Services which would be included at the centre are in–house patient education, a group services meeting area and a dedicated diabetic nurse, doctors who can provide diabetic care, a dietician (who currently attends the practice), a podiatrist and psychologist in–house whose services are available, and diabetic eye screening.

Dr Ray Olebaum, a consultant diabetologist at Ormskirk Hospital, supports the project and will act as a mentor for the scheme.

Dr Ryder added: "With these assets in place the goal is to provide a holistic patient–centric approach to diabetes care which ultimately will reduce cost to both the CCG and the patients themselves.

"Due to our location within the community patients would not needed to attend hospital services leading to a projected greater attendance rate and increased patient satisfaction. This will allow for improved access to hospital services and clinics.

"The health gain, both physically and financially, cannot be overstated. Often the toll of hospital visits can be overlooked within the medical community. We want to provide a specialised, professional diabetic team which will improve glycaemic control and thus improve patients' health and quality of life."

Shoppers feel 'The Force'...

Darth Vader and a Storm Trooper fight it out with Rich Arends at Cash Generator in Skelmersdale Concourse last week. Code1086634

VISITORS to one Skelmersdale shop were definitely feeling the 'Force' during a recent promotion!

Shoppers at the Cash Generator store in the Concourse shopping centre had the opportunity to have their photos taken with iconic big screen character, Darth Vader, as part of the promotion staged to mark the launch of Star Wars VII – The Force Awakens which opened in cinemas recently.

Darth Vader made two visits to the store in the run–up to Christmas, accompanied by one of his Storm Troopers.

Karate kid Caitlin's a real belter!

KARATE kid Caitlin Shepherd is a real belter – and she's got the certficiate to prove it!

The 11–year–old from Ormskirk Road, Up Holland, first took up the martial art as a first–year infant at St Thomas the Martyr Primary School.

Now, after six years of dedicated training, she has been a black belt Shodan 1st Dan in Shotakan Karate.

Caitlin trains twice a week with Lancashire Shotakan Karate Academy (LSKA) and over the years has graded for and passed nine belts before achieving her ultimate goal.

Brave Gemma sets her sights on dream wedding

• continued from Page 1

which has been put on hold indefinitely.

She added: "My family set up a GoFundMe page online for me to help try and raise £2,000 for our dream wedding. All our funds we had put aside have been eaten into and went towards fighting the disease so any help to try and get our wedding back on track would mean the world to me and Paul."

To date, generous donors have given more than £500 to Gemma's appeal. To donate or to find out more information about her campaign visit www.gofundme.com/melanomawedding.

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Fancy a cuppa and a chat?

OFFICIALS of a coffee morning club, which offers a chance to meet up with neighbours for a chat, a cuppa and a chance to make new friends, are inviting newcomers to join them to see if it's their cup of tea!

The Hobnob Club, which is open to everyone, meets at Aughton Village Hall on Winifred Lane every other Wednesday from 11am to 12.15pm.

Their next scheduled meetings are on Wednesdays, January 13 and 27, February 10 and 24 and March 9 and 23.

One of the organisers, Julia Woolgar, said: "Everyone is welcome to come along and enjoy a cup of coffee and meet up with friends and neighbours and make new connections."

Call to give up the booze for January

TAKING up the 'Dry January' challenge could help you improve your health and sleeping patterns – and even help your bank balance!

That's the message from health professionals at Lancashire Care NHS Foundation Trust who are urging West Lancs residents to take up the challenge to avoid all alcoholic drinks and stay completely sober for the 31 days of this month.

The challenge is deliberately timed to follow the Christmas and New Year party season, traditionally a time for parties and meeting friends and when many people are tempted to drink more than the recommended allowance with damaging effects.

The national campaign, which is led by Alcohol Concern, attracted more than two million people last year and looks to be even bigger this year.

Health improvement specialist at Lancashire Care NHS Foundation Trust, Gareth Beck, said: "The festivities of the last few weeks mean that some of us may have over–indulged in food and drink and the New Year is a great time to kick–start a new healthy you.

"Hundreds of people across Lancashire have already signed up to the Dry January campaign, so whether you're going to take part with your colleagues, friends, family or alone, sign up today and see if you can stay tipple–free for 31 days. You'll save money, sleep better, lose weight and improve your own health and fitness.

"You can also track your drinking by using the MyDrinkaware dashboard and receive personalised tips and feedback to help you cut down your alcohol intake to safe limits."

West Lancs residents are being urged to take up the Dry January challenge

• To sign up to Dry January, visit www.dryjanuary.org.uk for information about the benefits of stopping drinking and mocktail recipes. For information on the effects of drinking alcohol visit drinkaware.co.uk.

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Kind–hearted Ollie at his Champ desk

Ollie's good deed diary!

By **Holly Rummens**

Champ reporter completes 365 acts of random kindness throughout 2015

WHEN Champ reporter, Ollie Cowan, decided to do a good deed for every day of 2015, he never anticipated how much it would change people's lives.

Ollie made the decision to carry out 365 random acts of kindness on New Year's Day, last year, after being inspired by Luke Cameron, who completed the challenge in 2014 and made national headlines.

From collecting clothes for an abandoned baby to hiding scratch cards in supermarkets for unsuspecting shoppers, Ollie, 24, has estimated that around £800 has been donated to local charities.

The mammoth task was documented on Facebook and on his own blog, The Good Deed Feed, which has since amassed thousands of followers.

He said: "It seems so long ago now that I don't quite remember why I decided to do the challenge. I was trying to distract myself from the hangover of a New Year's Eve party the night before and I started to read an article about a man who had done a similar challenge the year before.

"Having a bit of an ego – and also not wanting to give up takeaways as an alternate New Year's resolution – I decided that I could probably do something similar.

"I made a set of self–imposed rules – most of them had to be done without money, I could never repeat the same good deed twice and they had to be totally selfless – at no point could I benefit from anything I'd done.

"To be honest I didn't expect to make it past day ten and silently thought that it might just fade out but to my surprise it got quite a following!

"Over the course of the year the response I got from it was unbelievable and I've made so many friends and met so many new people just trying to spread a little cheer every day to either someone I know or complete strangers."

Some of Ollie's kind actions included spending part of Christmas Day with the fire service serving hot meals to elderly people who would otherwise be alone, to volunteering to walk a mile to the nearest supermarket to pick up some raspberries for the local gin bar's specialist cocktail.

Ollie added: "The good deeds range from the boring to the downright bizarre.

"Of course, a lot have been charity based but I tried to keep them interesting rather than just donating some money to a local cause. They had to have some sort of meaning behind them.

"I haven't given mammoth sums away but I think between all my endeavours I may have donated about £800 to charity or good causes.

"Some of that money was spent on buying hot drinks or blankets for the homeless around Southport, or donating clothes for a baby which had been abandoned in an amusement arcade.

"I have no idea what I'll do next – that's a question I've been asked a lot lately and, to be honest, I have yet to think of a good enough idea! I don't think I'll manage another 365 completely different, unique good deeds but, who knows – perhaps 52 weeks of good deeds! I'm sure I can come up with something."

Villagers in bid to raise funds for new play park

The three youngsters are pictured at their presentation with parsh councillors Ruth Pollock, Barry Hale and Mike McGunigle

By **Henry James**

CRAWFORD Village and Pimbo Playing Fields Association are raising money to build a new play park.

The project has involved the whole community, including pupils of Crawford Village Primary School, residents of Crawford and Pimbo and the local parish council.

The play park in Crawford was built in the 1970s and since then it has become unuseable and unsafe.

Martin Wilson from the project said: "We desperately need a new play park where children can play safely and enjoy their free time."

The children looked at lots of play parks on the internet and have visited lots of play parks in the area. This has helped with their designs.

The children agreed an overall design and asked a local company, Playsound, to create a design and estimate the cost. It was about £40,000.

A survey of the residents of Crawford and Pimbo revealed the following findings:

- 98% believe there is a desperate need of a new play park
- 69% thought they would have better family time
- 95% would attend further events at the village hall
- 85% thought that children would be healthier and more active if there was a new play park.

Three children from Crawford Village Primary School – eight–year–old Roisin Gribbon and 10–year–olds Alice Griggs and Joshua Gaunt – delivered a presentation which impressed members of Up Holland Parish Council, emphasising the need to replace the existing play park and introducing their exciting designs.

Martin Wilson added: "Unfortunately, enthusiasm alone isn't enough and the equipment and build will cost a considerable amount. A number of events are being planned to raise money and several applications are being completed."

Paul Black, community matters leader at Procter and Gamble in Skelmersdale presents the cheque for £1,500 to the Engine Rooms

Firm spreads festive cheer

£10,000 donated to local good causes

PROCTER and Gamble in Skelmersdale have been spreading festive cheer across West Lancashire.

In the past few weeks they have donated £10,000 to local causes, including taking 99 children from St Edmund's Catholic Primary School to see Aladdin at Southport Theatre.

They also donated £1,000 to Circus Starr, to allow them to pay for underprivileged children to go to the circus, and £1,500 to the Engine Rooms in Skelmersdale to get a new boiler enabling young children and carers to continue to use the facilities.

The company is also supporting the Digmoor Food Bank with donations of products, two new freezers and have also revamped their store rooms to make the centre more efficient. A team of employees helped to put together the Christmas hampers.

Julie Jackson, employee relations leader at Procter and Gamble, said: "The generosity of the people on site is mind–blowing especially donating at this time of year. All the causes we have donated to are very worthy causes and we will continue to support them in the New Year."

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School raises more than £1,000 for head's charity

RESIDENTS from Birch Green, Beacon View, Stocks Hall and Lindsey House care homes attended the annual Christmas party at Lathom High School where more than £1,000 was handed over to charity.

The party was hosted by students from the school's Year 7 nurture group and all the visitors said that they were an absolute credit to the school.

The final part of the celebration was dedicated to the headteacher's charity Joseph's Goal.

Joseph Kendrick is a five–year–old with NKH (Non–Ketotic Hyperglycinemia). The condition is a very rare life–limiting genetic disorder which affects his development. The charity was set up to raise awareness of NKH and to pay for research into the condition.

Joseph himself was in attendance at Lathom with his mum, Emma Kendrick and headteacher, Jane Galbraith, presented them with a cheque for the money raised by the school this term, an impressive £1,221.65.

The guests had a Christmas buffet and were entertained by Bradley Stockton, from Year 9.

Each care home was presented with a piece of art work created by Lathom students and a hamper donated by the following local businesses, Cleggs, Forshaws and Scotts' butchers.

Mayor of West Lancashire, Councillor Nikki Hennessy also went along to support the event and join in the party.

• RIGHT: The Kendrick family receive the cheque

Shopping centre's new signage inspired by local heritage

By **Henry James**

NEW signage has been installed at Sandy Lane Shopping Centre inspired by local heritage and work produced by pupils from St Richard's Catholic Primary School.

Artists Neil and Fiona Osborne from One Red Shoe worked with the young people and have created a bespoke design in illuminated lettering.

The children's artwork that inspired the design can be viewed at Café Vibe on the ground floor of the centre until Saturday, January 30.

The bespoke banner heralds the success of The Friends of Sandy Lane 'Get creative with Sandy Lane project'.

The children enjoyed working on the banners. One said: "I enjoy being creative and having the chance to work with real artists", while another commented: "Knowing that our art work would be displayed in Sandy Lane was a dream come true."

Mike Holden, St Richard's Catholic Primary School head teacher, said: "It was a great opportunity for our school to collaborate with local artists and to really push and inspire some of our gifted and talented children."

The Friends group, a partnership of business, community and the council, was set up in October 2014 to support community developments and improvements at the centre. A number of family–friendly events, such as art workshops, a teddy bears picnic and a vintage market, took place at the centre. These gave the local community and businesses a chance to give their views on how the Sandy Lane Shopping Centre could be improved.

The sign at Sandy Lane Shopping Centre

The Friends group is pleased to announce it has been awarded £15,000 by Arts Council England to help it put into action the first phase of the findings of that consultation process.

This project will draw on local heritage with author Sarah Schofield and artists Neil and Fiona Osborne.

The local community and invited groups such as the Park Children's Centre, West Lancashire Community High School and Stocks Hall Nursing Home can get involved through a programme of creative writing and arts–based workshops. More details of the project and workshops will be announced in the near future.

Although funding has been approved for the first phase of the project, further funding will be needed for the next phase.

Councillor Yvonne Gagen, West Lancs Council's cabinet member for leisure, said: "I am looking forward to seeing these banners going up as the children and the artists have put a lot of effort into producing this excellent piece of work."

And Councillor Ian Moran, council leader and portfolio holder for regeneration, said: "I am very pleased to hear about the grant award for the Friends group. This project sounds very exciting for the centre and the local community."

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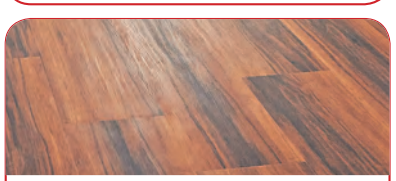

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Chance for public to speak up at council meetings

By **Henry James**

MEMBERS of the public have been granted the right to have a greater say at some West Lancs Borough Council meetings.

The proposals were agreed at a recent meeting of the council and meetings of the cabinet, the executive overview and scrutiny committee and the corporate and environmental overview and scrutiny committee will start at 7pm to accommodate the changes.

Meetings of full council have not been included at this time.

The move has been welcomed by the Our West Lancashire independent group which has been campaigning for the change. A council working group was set up in response to a motion moved by Our West Lancashire councillor, Adrian Owens in April.

Residents will be able to ask questions and speak on agenda items at cabinet meetings and the main committees of the council providing they give notice and follow broad guidelines.

Councillor Adrian Owens

Cllr. Owens said: "This welcome step forward has only come about because of the focus that independents have put on it.

"Neither of the main parties was interested in giving residents a greater voice but I'm delighted that we've pushed them forward on this."

However, Cllr. Owens said it was regrettable that some restrictions on residents involvement remained, including only being able to speak and question items on the agenda and not raise new issues, and the fact they had only 48 hours or so to submit applications.

He said: "These restrictions show that there are clearly some who continue to regard residents as a nuisance rather than as the people we serve. Residents should be able to ask their questions directly whether the item is on the agenda or not."

There will be a 6.30pm start for meetings of the audit & governance committee (the usual training sessions held prior to this committee would then start at 6pm).

Relevant changes to the constitution will be made by the borough solicitor, as appropriate. It is believed the changes would cost the council an extra £6,000 a year.

Meanwhile, pocedures for the public and applicants who wish to speak at the planning committee on applications that might affect them, public participation at meetings of council, and resources will be further considered by the working group in 12 months time.

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Cloudy2Clear service the Crosby, Litherland, Aintree, Maghull, Walton, Anfield, Netherton, Bootle, Formby, Ormskirk and Skelmersdale areas & Paul is finding that his approach is a major factor in his success. *'The truth is that it's not just the personal satisfaction that I get from doing a good job but also it makes good business sense. I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people I've done work for, which just goes to show how much a little bit of effort is appreciated.'*

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KGV implement pay & display on college car park

New scheme will help alleviate traffic issues on Scarisbrick New Road

Report By Ollie Cowan

KING George V College will not charge students or staff to park within its grounds – despite launching a pay and display scheme at the Scarisbrick New Road site.

The car park at KGV college has long been used after hours as a makeshift overflow car park for the nearby Richmond Pub and Southport Hospital – although it has never officially been classed as a public car park.

Now bosses at KGV say they are happy to open up their space to visitors to the area as a 'community asset' – although drivers will have to pay for the privilege.

Anne–Marie Francis, Vice Principal, told The Champion: "We are fortunate to have space for all our staff and those students with cars to be able to park safely and free of charge and this continues to be the case.

"The pay and display scheme we have introduced does not apply to staff or students and is intended to be a community asset as it will encourage safe, affordable off–road parking for people who may be visiting the local area."

ollie.cowan@champnews.com

Pay and Display car parking at Southport's KGV College on Scarisbrick New Road.

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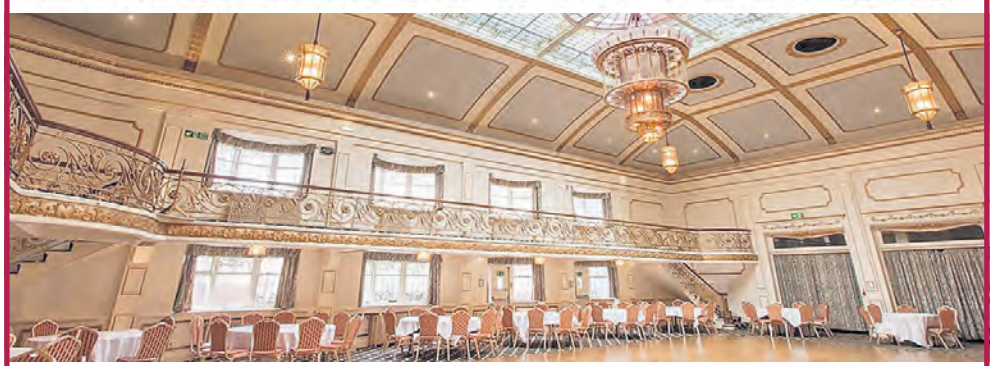

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Champion LETTERS to the Editor

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Bridge can't repair itself!

I SEE the county council wants to stop heavy lorries using the railway bridge in Derby Street, Ormskirk.

The bridge needs repairing but it is a trunk road so all the traffic can't be stopped from using it although they say that heavy lorries can't use the bridge for five years.

The bridge can't repair itself! It was built in the 1800s, made of sandstone. It costs lorry firms a lot of money to run vehicles and to take other roads will cost them more time and fuel.

Some might try and use the country roads and spoil them and upset car drivers.

But they will have to close the bridge one day – we have to face that – and then there would be a traffic problem in Ormskirk!

It takes a half–hour to drive from Westhead to Ormskirk Bus station most times as it is. If Derby Street Railway Bridge was to close what happens then? I wouldn't like to see.

The railway company does not want a line between Ormskirk and Skelmersdale, the proposed line will go to Kirkby and Rainford.

The Skem line could be a new road to Ormskirk – not a motorway but one for two–way traffic.

And if it was to go under Dark Lane on to County Road, that would make a big difference and no need for a bypass. After all, it was done at Switch Island, Aintree to Crosby.

Eric Nigel Daish, Westhead

Frack plans 'disturbing'

Rosie Cooper MP is to be greatly admired for standing up for her constituents and constituency.

Rosie said plans for fracking across Lancashire are 'shocking'. I totally agree but prefer to use the word 'disturbing'.

The Lancashire plain is one of the most fertile areas of the UK but now this rich alluvial area is subject to an experiment designed simply to satiate money–men who have a government to help guide them through the political mud.

Lancashire has already met its obligations to economic growth by housing some of the most toxic chemicals in landfill sites. These sites will eventually leak but fracking will fracture the clay lining of landfill sites causing 'unknown' contamination of land and water.

That's it, the genie will be out of the bottle and no amount of money can rectify it.

Even more disturbing this government do not care one iota about the UK and the health of its people or environment. The Lancashire Plain means nothing to them not when there's lots of money to be had.

This government disturb me. What kind of grotesque, immoral education do these people receive in Eton? Past governments have at least pretended to be democratic. Not this one.

Chris Carr, Skelmersdale

No wonder the NHS is so short of money

As the NHS is so short of money, my experience shows one aspect why.

Sadly, last September my mother passed away.

The months before, she had a fall for which she was receiving occupational therapy at home. She had various walking aids and such like issued to her from various NHS departments.

When she died, I contacted these departments for them to have these items returned.

Not one item was returned as I was told they were my mother's. I explained that most of these items were brand new and never used. They still didn't want them.

I didn't want to sell them as I felt that would be immoral, so I contacted a charity which makes use of them. When the chap came to collect them he told me they were worth over £1,000 and this happens quite a lot.

No wonder the NHS is in the red.

Mr James Riley
Skelmersdale.

PICTURE of the week

www.champnews.com/pixonline

The annual Epiphany service gets under way in the 'ancient chapel' adjacent to Maghull's St Andrew's Parish Church. Picture by Martyn Snape. Code: 01087034.

Turn to us for help with heating costs

THE Chancellor's announcement that he will no longer cut tax credits was welcome news for the many thousands of families worried about how they would cope with such a dramatic cut in income.

It is clear that the stark analysis of these cuts from the public, media and charities such as ourselves, has made a difference.

The impact of the proposed reduction to tax credits would have been dire to those on the lowest incomes. Many people were desperately worried about how they would afford the basics such as heating and food. The announcement will ease those concerns for many.

However, whilst the news is positive, there is still an urgent need to let those struggling know what support is available. More than half of low income workers are struggling to afford their energy costs, with a third skipping meals as a result. Yet only 12% have told their energy supplier about their situation and only 5% have turned to an advice organisation.

I would urge anyone worried about how they, or a friend or relative, are going to cope with the cost of heating their home this winter to visit turn2us.org.uk/NoColdHomes to see what help could be available.

Simon Hopkins, chief executive Turn2us

Greater good of uni

With the ever growing collection of nauseatingly prejudiced letters attacking Edge Hill University and their students, I feel compelled to 'chip in'.

I have no doubt that there are students that misbehave, just as there are students that do not. The middle aged men who pass my house late at night every weekend, swearing, fighting, and throwing bottles & take–away trays, are most certainly not students.

Secondly, to dispute or downplay the economic impact of the University on West Lancashire is ill–informed.

Yes, there are empty units in the town, but not many. Visit Clitheroe, a more affluent area and another grandiosely labelled 'historic market town' and you will see a town centre in a sad and terminal decline.

So why is this not the case in Ormskirk? Maybe it is due in part to thousands of students, living, spending, working in the area, and supporting the many businesses. Not to mention the 3,200 workers that Edge Hill employs – doing the same.

If your existence was better before the growth of Edge Hill, then bully for you. However, I prefer to focus on the greater good, which I believe Edge Hill is undoubtedly a force for

Matthew Black (by email)

Market Hall building could be jewel in Ormskirk town centre's crown

I feel compelled to add my comments regarding the non–resident businessman and his development company who are changing the face of Ormskirk by the various planning applications for change of use of many prominent buildings located in our town.

In particular, I would bring to your attention the uncertain future of Ormskirk Market Hall located on Moorgate, which is having a detrimental effect on the traders currently occupying that building.

The building has been allowed to deteriorate over recent years because it appears the landlord intends to demolish the building and replace it with student accommodation.

Consequently the building is underused and undervalued when it could potentially be a thriving centre for budding entrepreneurs and small independent traders.

With a little investment and vision this building could be a "Jewel in the Crown" for Ormskirk. Its demise is another "nail in the coffin" for what was once a wonderful trading hub of Ormskirk town centre.

I would urge people to support the traders within the Indoor Market Hall and object in writing to the various planning applications that are ruining our historic and beautiful Market Town.

H. E. Dykes,
Ormskirk

• IF you've got a point of view about a topic of local interest, we want to hear from you.

Letters to the editor should be concise – preferably no more than 350 words – and should include the name, address and a contact telephone number or email address of the sender for the purpose of clarification, although not necessarily for publication.

The editor reserves the right to edit all items submitted for favour of publication.

Go to hearing clinic at hospital

In response to the woman who wants a hearing aid for mother (Champion, December 16).

She says she needed to drive her mother into the pedestrianised area of Ormskirk Town centre to get her a hearing test, but when one thinks about it the answer is simple. All she has to do is drive to the front door of Ormskirk Hospital, walk into the reception area, take one of the wheelchairs that's available, put mum in it and wheel her straight into the hearing clinic.

He mum doesn't even have to get out of the chair for the test! Job done!

John Aindow, Ormskirk, by email

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Heritage group meeting to celebrate canal bicentenary

MEMBERS of the public are being invited to attend a presentation to celebrate the bicentenary of the completion of one of the region's iconic waterways.

Although work started on the Leeds–Liverpool Canal in 1770 it wasn't completed until 1816.

And as part of the celebrations to mark the 200th anniverary members of the Burscough Heritage Group are hosting a meeting on Monday, January 11, which will feature a 'show and tell' on the history of the canal starting at 7.30pm at the Blue Mallard on Burscough Wharf.

Colin Wareing, one of the group's events organisers said: "During 2016 towns and villages along the canal are planning commemoration events and the Burscough Heritage Group is starting on Monday, January 11 with the first of events we are planning during the year.

"Anyone who has any connections with the canal, either through working as a boater, for British Waterways or on Ainscoughs mill grain barge, or have family connections to the waterway is welcome to attend. Even if you are just interested in the canal, please come along and share your memories and photographs.

"The plan is to produce a commemorative booklet for everyone and the group will be asking for a £2 donation on the night."

For more information, or if you can't be there on the evening and have photographs or memories you would like to share, email burscoughvch@yahoo.co.uk or ring Colin on 07931 356204.

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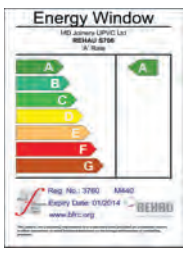

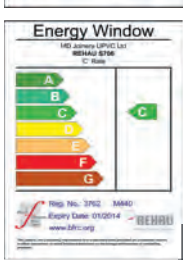

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Councillor full of praise for borough postal workers

ORMSKIRK post–woman and County Councillor Julie Gibson has heaped praise on her fellow mail delivering colleagues as part of National Postal Workers Day recently.

Postal workers across the country came together to mark the National Postal Workers Day, as part of the People's Post campaign, which aims to highlight the role played in communities across the UK by postmen and women.

Councillor Gibson said: "As a County Councillor and a working postie it was a great pleasure to stand with my colleagues and take a moment to reflect on the work that we do.

"National Postal Workers Day is a chance for businesses and customers across the UK to thank their local postie for their efforts across the year."

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Ian Jones, curate at St Johns serves a train guard. Pic by Mike Downey Code NA

All aboard for train station giveaway

By **Danielle Thompson**

A FELLOWSHIP group showed the meaning of holiday cheer when they served up free hot drinks and nibbles to train staff and customers at Burscough station recently.

Chilly Christmas shoppers travelling from Burscough Bridge station on Saturday were greeted by friendly faces from the men's 'Fellaship' group from St John the Baptist Church, Burscough, in partnership with the station staff as the café opened its doors for one morning only to serve up free hot drinks and Christmas nibbles.

The station staff opened up the old café area for the volunteers to serve out free tea, coffee, hot chocolate and treats for more than three hours including Christmas cake and mince pies to more than 150 passengers were very grateful for the offer of a warming drink in the wet wintery weather, sending them on their way in good spirits to the Christmas markets.

The train drivers also welcomed a mince pie for their journey!

Charity

Ian Jones, curate at St Johns, said: "In previous years we have done this on a weekday, serving commuters on their way to work in the run up to Christmas. This year we thought we'd have a change and do it on Saturday to bless people going Christmas shopping or on their way to visit friends, family, or football matches.

"Wherever they were going, it was all about blessing people in a small way at Christmas time, as a symbol of how God has blessed us all in the biggest way possible by sending us his son Jesus. The train goers were all really friendly and happy to chat, and we hope many of them will come back and visit us at St John's to find out more about the meaning of Christmas. Thanks also once again to the wonderful station staff for their support in helping to make this happen."

Find out more about the work of St John's church at www.stjohns–burscough.org

Keep in touch with the local news and views
on our website
www.champnews.com

Persimmon Homes sales director Diane Finch presents a Community Champions cheque to Bernard Sparkes and Stan Farrington of Douglas Cardiac Trust

Housing firm help to boost heritage projects

By **Danielle Thompson**

A HOUSING development company has given a boost to heritage and health projects.

Persimmon Homes have awarded H&R Ainscough Barge Restoration and the Douglas Cardiac Trust £1,000 each as part of their national Community Champions scheme, which seeks to support groups and charities working to improve the quality of life or environment for local people.

Diane Finch, sales director for Persimmon Homes Lancashire, said: "Our Ainscough Mill development overlooks the canal in Burscough, offering unique views for people living there. Just like the mill itself, the historic waterway is a lasting reminder of the industrial heritage of the area and something to be treasured. We worked tirelessly to restore and renovate the mill and are pleased to support the group preserving the last two 1933 barges.

"The Douglas Cardiac Trust is a local charity providing medical support in the villages of Tarleton, Banks and Hesketh Bank. As well as helping to fund First Responder and First Aid provision, the group has placed more than 30 defibrillators in public buildings and supported individuals with complex medical needs. Such a service in a semi–rural area is a lifeline for local people and very deserving of our help."

d.thompson@champnews.com

Residents to have their say on health and social care across West Lancs

AN organisation which aims to help people give their opinions on health and social care is speaking to community groups to allow more residents the opportunity to say 'I've Had My Say.'

The Healthwatch Lancashire team is reaching into communities to find out what really matters to people by launching a programme of Care Circle events, an approach to gathering feedback on health and social care services from people in the county.

Healthwatch Lancashire is looking for those who manage community groups to express an interest in the 'Care Circle' events so that members of the group are able to share their views and experiences.

To contact the Healthwatch Lancashire call 0300 303 8811.

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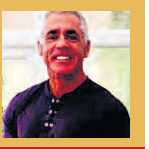

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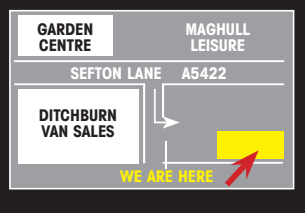

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1146256

Search to find best heating installer hots up!

THE SEARCH is now on to find the area's best heating installer.

Have you had a heating problem in the past year, and been impressed with the plumber or installer who fixed it? Or are you a heating installer who constantly delivers outstanding work for homeowners?

Now nominees are being sought for the 2016 Heating Installer of the Year Awards as the race begins to find the top heating installers.

The new industry awards aim to recognise the efforts of leading tradespeople in the UK – and it's looking for entries from the best plumbers and heating installers.

The North West's winner will be announced in March 2016 and compete to be crowned the National Heating Installer of the Year 2016.

To enter, installers should visit www.hi–awards–2016.org.uk

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Champion staff with the donated food

Champion staff help community food bank

THE staff at The Champion did their bit for Digmoor Community Foodbank at the Evermoor Hub in Skelmersdale before Christmas.

Employees collected food for the venue and people brought in a range of goods from soup, to tins of biscuits.

During the festive season volunteers at the centre served Christmas dinners on Christmas Day and handed out hampers to the needy of Skelmersdale and other parts of West Lancashire.

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Perfect Shutters welcome everybody to visit their new designer showroom on Allerton Road, Liverpool where you can browse their extensive range at your leisure and get expert advice! You may have also seen Perfect Shutters located in the entrance of Taskers in Aintree and their new home store in Hunts Cross. If you have seen any Plantation Shutters installed near you and were to ask the homeowners who it was that installed their shutters you will likely find the answer to be Perfect Shutters and that they would highly recommend Paul and his lovely fitters!

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So lucky that a shattered mirror was only trauma at my house

I CONFESS I am getting a trifle lost at the moment.

Christmas and New Year have conspired to make me wonder what week I am in – and which week's Champion I am writing for.

It's all because of the days of the week these two festivals happen to have fallen – coupled with the 'extra' public holidays, which because of weekends I seem somehow to have become two weeks behind in my thinking about which I am writing. If that makes any sense at all?

Anyway, because of this conspiracy on my small bear's brain, I am sitting here just before New Year's Eve, writing for the paper which appears on the streets in roughly a week's time. It really is confusing.

Anyway, I hope you all thoroughly enjoyed the Festive Season and came through without any major traumas.

When I see the horrific pictures of the devastation caused by the floods in Cumbria and York (and in some parts of our own region in Lancashire as well), my heart really goes out to those people who have not only 'lost' Christmas, but also their treasured possessions and in some cases their homes as well.

And it makes me realise just how fortunate I am living where I do which always seems – and I am touching wood – to escape the worst of any really awfulness our climate can produce.

Lightening the mood a little, I hope, there was only one major catastrophe to disturb the Sharpe household over the holidays.

The dogs, Tina and Cinders, and I had finished our Boxing Day dinner and repaired to the living room to settle in for an evening's telly, when I heard what sounded like a loud 'crack' followed by a thump.

Since Cinders was at the time loose in the hallway, I assumed she had succeeded in knocking something over – and because I could still hear her moving about I thought nothing much of it. Such things happen in Cinder World.

It was only a couple of hours later that I went into the dining room and found the large mirror which has adorned the chimney breast for as long as I can remember, was now lying shattered to smithereens all over the floor.

I knew what had caused it – and it certainly wasn't the Mystery of the Mirror Cracked!

I had placed a lighted candle in front of the mirror and though I blew it out before we left the room, I reckon the damage had already been done and the mirror's doom sealed.

It took ages to make sure every last sliver of glass was hoovered up before they became embedded on the dogs' paws.

Did I say 'only one catastrophe'? Well there was very nearly a far more serious one earlier on Boxing Day.

I had a turkey roasting happily (yes, turkey on Boxing Day), when half–way through the oven door fell off!

It was my late brother George who damaged it originally, but until now it simply required a slight twist of the wrist and a hefty shove with the foot to close it.

I did actually manage to get it back (roughly) in place, but I fear it now needs a proper repair (or even replacement).

Still, as I said, our problems pale into insignificance compared to those of others.

So finally, since this is the last 'Dog' I'll be writing in 2015, may I wish you all good health and good spirits as I finally settle into 2016?

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A previous floodlit swan event Code NA

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Report by **Henry James**

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Floodlit swan events will be held every Tuesday evening in January. With over 1,500 Whooper Swans currently on the Mere, and numbers expected to increase over the following months, this event is being described by staff at the Mere as "a once in a lifetime opportunity to see huge numbers of wild swans in their natural habitat".

From the comfort of the heated Raines observatory people will see wild swans at close quarters with a live commentary and Q&A session from the wardens.

This event is ideal for families and groups and starts promptly at 6.30pm until 8pm. Advance booking is required, book online at www.wwt.org.uk/floodlitswan or call 01705 895181.

WWT Martin Mere Wetland Centre is open from 9.30am to 4.30pm during winter months and parking is free of charge. Situated off the A59, it is signposted from the M61, M58 and M6.

The centre is also accessible via the Southport to Manchester and the Liverpool to Preston line by train from Burscough Rail Stations.

Visit the web site www.wwt.org.uk/martinmere/ to find out what's on all year round at Martin Mere and the other eight WWT Wetland Centres.

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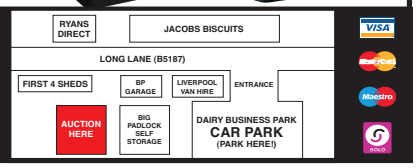

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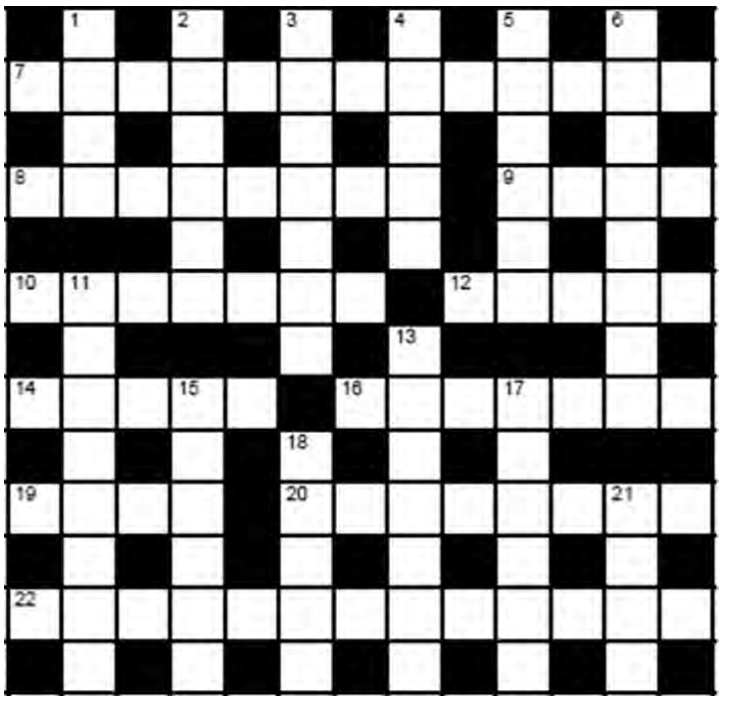
Week 1



ACROSS

7 Relation by marriage (8-2-3)
8 To transfer or broadcast (8)
9 Large brass wind instrument (4)
10 Feeling of discomfort, illness or unease (7)
12 Rude, mean-spirited person (5)
14 Aircraft or submarine door (5)
16 Collective name for the period from Tuesday to Thursday (7)
19 Fine, thread-like strands growing from the skin of humans and mammals (4)
20 'No Entry' or 'One-Way Street' for example (4,4)
22 Of a pale yellow appearance (5-8)

DOWN

1 Where a wild animal lives (4)
2 Landlocked East African country (6)
3 Break down into or list constituent parts (7)
4 Hackneyed, banal (5)
5 Informer, tell-tale (6)
6 Large rally of Scouts or Guides (8)
11 Tropical plant (8)
13 Incapacitate (7)
15 Gather together and confine (6)
17 Do the dishes (4,2)
18 Ruse, ploy (5)
21 Increased in size (4)

Last week's solutions:

Across: 7 Meteor. 8 Impart. 9 Zeal. 10 Idealist. 11 Wrought. 13 Swung. 15 Mince. 17 Gruyere. 20 Spray gun. 21 Hilt. 22 Proton. 23 Thorax.

Down: 1 Veneer. 2 Peel. 3 Mr Right. 4 Mixer. 5 Spillway. 6 Prison. 12 Unchaste. 14 Trinity. 16 Impure. 18 Reload. 19 Agent. 21 Hoof.

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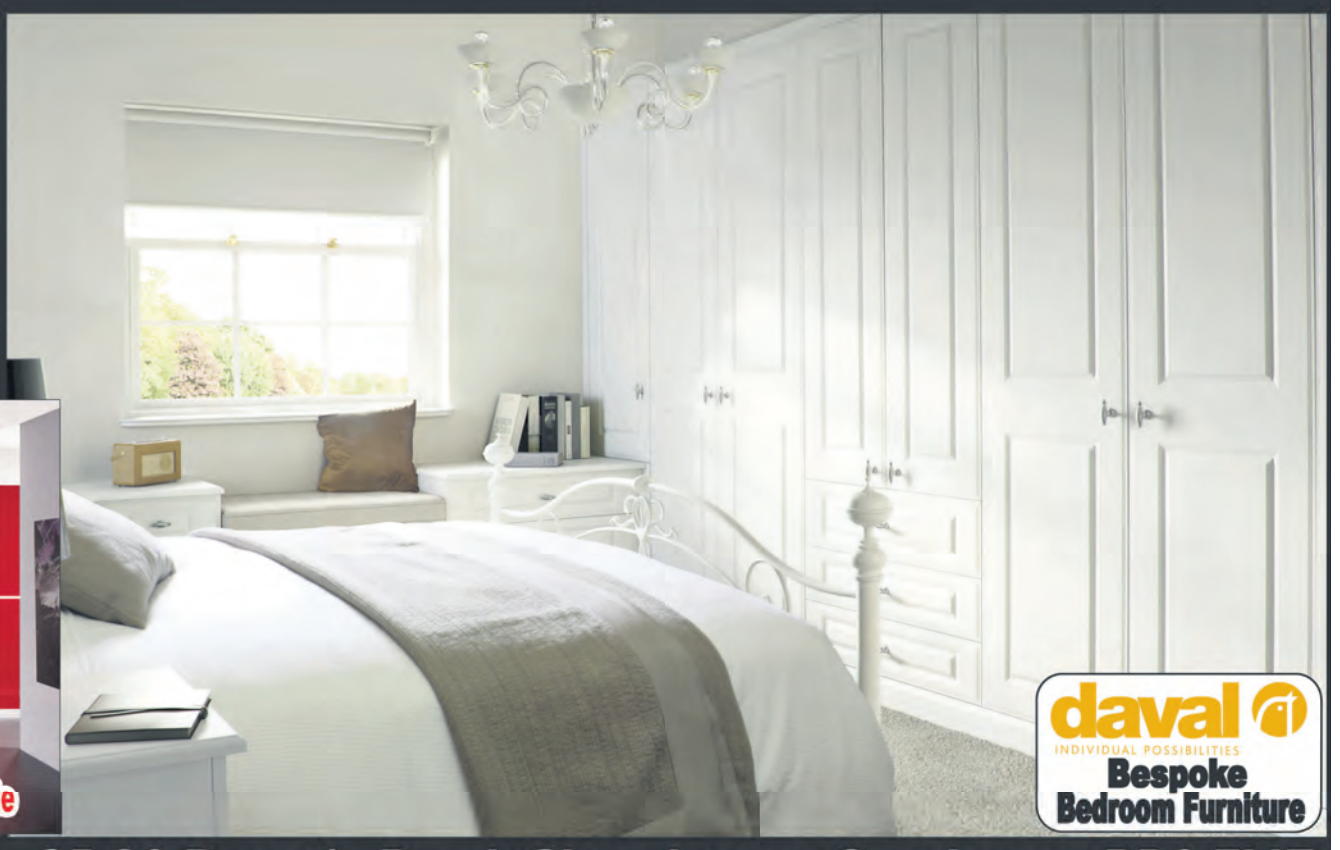

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Nursery pupils stage Christmas special show

The nursery pupils at St James' Primary and their friends from Year 5

NURSERY youngsters at St James' Catholic Primary School in Ashurst, Skelmersdale staged a Christmas performance – with a little help from their friends in the school's Year 5 class.

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TASKERS
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Students' tea party raises funds for children's charities

STUDENTS on Midstream's Pathways to Adulthood programme, which is based in Skelmersdale, raised £330 for a local charity by throwing a 1940s–themed afternoon tea party.

The tea party was held over two days, with many of the students' parents and carers in attendance along with Midstream clients and staff.

Tea, coffee and homemade cake and scones were on offer to guests, with all money raised going to Tender Hearts, a charity who donate money to Ormskirk Neonatal Unit and Bliss. Both charities help premature children.

The students, who have been learning all about the 1940s as part of their community classes, discovered that tea parties became popular during this era as a way of bringing communities together during the Second World War.

They organised every aspect of the event, including research and planning, making decorations, preparing the venue, baking cakes and serving the guests.

The 1940s theme was carried throughout the event with red, white and blue table decorations, Union Jack bunting and oversized copies of 1940s objects hanging from the ceiling plus a display of genuine 1940s artefacts loaned from Lancashire Museums.

Midstream Pathways to Adulthood students along with staff Nic (left) and Emma (centre) present their cheque to Joanne Denton (2nd from right) and mum Pat Denton.

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Youngsters stage Nativity double bill

Key Stage One pupils performing Sparkle

YOUNGSTERS at a West Lancs school performed two Nativity plays in the run–up to Christmas.

Nursery and reception pupils at Banks St Stephens CE Primary School in Greaves Hall Avenue performed Welcome Little Baby, while Key Stage One children performed Sparkle.

The school's breakfast and afterschool–club, Sticky Fingers also held a Breakfast With Santa event in the school hall.

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Local Tories to host dinner for Northern Powerhouse MP

WEST Lancashire Conservatives are holding a black–tie three–course dinner with James Wharton MP, the parliamentary under–secretary of state at the Department for Communities and Local Government with responsibility for the Northern Powerhouse.

The meal will take place at The West Tower in Aughton, on Friday, February 19 starting at 7pm and tickets, priced £30, can be ordered from Councillor Ruth Melling on 01704 896373.

Archdeacons appointed

THE venerable Jennifer McKenzie has been appointed archdeacon of Wigan and West Lancashire following a special service performed by the Bishop of Liverpool, the Right Reverend Paul Bayes.

She was one of three new archdeacons appointed at the service along with the venerable Pete Spiers (Knowsley) and the venerable Roger Preece (Sefton).

• Pictured at the ceremony are (left to right) the venerable Pete Spiers; the venerable Jennifer McKenzie; Bishop Paul Bayes; Bishop Richard Blackburn; the venerable Roger Preece and the venerable Ricky Panter **Code NA**

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New Group from 4th January

ASHURST, SKELMERSDALE
The Ashurst Centre, Lyndhurst
Monday 3.30pm, 5.30pm & 7.30pm
Sue: 01695 420 305

OLD ROAN
The Hope Centre (behind Tesco) Aintree Lane
Monday 9.30am & 11.30am
Victoria: 07766 136641
Morning Group

OLD ROAN
The Hope Centre (behind Tesco) Aintree Lane
Monday 5pm and 7pm
Victoria: 07766 136641

OLD SKELMERSDALE
The Wardens Club, Blaguegate Lane,
Monday 5pm & 7pm
Kathy: 01695 423 658

TUESDAY
OLD SKELMERSDALE
The Wardens Club, Blaguegate Lane,
Tuesday 9.15 & 11.15am
Kathy: 01695 423 658
Morning Group

FAZAKERLEY
Our Lady of Sorrows Social Club
Stopgate Lane/Pirrie Road
Tuesday 4.30pm & 6.30pm
Sue: 07957 531346

WEDNESDAY
BURSCOUGH
Burscough British Legion Club, Lord Street
Wednesday 5.15 & 7.15pm
Kathy: 01695 423 658

FAZAKERLEY
British Legion
Longmoor Lane
next to Shell Garage
Wednesday 5pm & 6.30pm
Eileen: 0151 548 0658

LYDIATE
St Gregorys Parish Centre
Liverpool Rd
Wednesday 4.30pm & 6pm
Marcia: 07976 897074

ORMSKIRK
Ormskirk Rugby Club, Green Lane
Wednesday 9.30 & 11.30am
Tina: 0151 548 4266
Morning Group

ORMSKIRK
Ormskirk Rugby Club, Green Lane
Wednesday 5.30 & 7.30pm
Tina: 0151 548 4266

UP HOLLAND
Up Holland Methodist Church, Alma Hill
Wednesday 3.45, 5.30 & 7.30pm
Sarah: 07969 395302

THURSDAY
AUGHTON
Aughton Village Hall, Winifred Lane
Thursday 9.30am
Zoe: 01695 580 966
Morning Group

AUGHTON
Scout and Guide Hut (behind Christ Church), Long Lane
Thursday 5.30 & 7.30pm
Zoe: 01695 580 966

DIGMOOR, SKELMERSDALE
Digmoor Community Centre, Birleywood
Thursday 9.30am & 11.30am
Jackie: 07888 830892
Morning Group

DIGMOOR, SKELMERSDALE
Digmoor Community Centre, Birleywood
Thursday 4.30pm & 6.30pm
Jackie: 07888 830892

MAGHULL
St Georges Social Centre, Station Rd
Thursday 3pm, 5pm & 7pm
Sue: 07957 531346

FRIDAY
MAGHULL
Fridays 9.30 & 11.30
St Georges, Station Road
New Venue from 8th Jan

SATURDAY
ORMSKIRK
St Anne's School, Aughton St, Ormskirk
8.30am, 10.30am & 12.30pm
Sue: 07817 444580
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Talented pupils have a way with words

LOCAL secondary school pupils certainly showed they had a way with words when they took part in a public speaking contest organised by the Ormskirk Catenians.

Officials of the Roman Catholic lay society group invited Year 10 and 11 students from St Bedes Catholic High School in Ormskirk, Maricourt Catholic High School in Maghull, Our Lady Queen of Peace Engineering College in Skelmersdale and Christ the King Catholic High School in Southport to take part in the competition judged by Gail Stanley MBE, West Lancs Council member, Councillor Adrian Owens and Catenian Province 4 director, Peter Rogers.

Catenian Andrew Pritchard said: "The contest was keenly contested and the standard was very high. The contestants were judged on appearance, delivery, oral skills and content and the judges couldn't split the joint winners, Alice Wong of St Bedes and Jack Anderton of Maricourt."

Winners Jack and Alice

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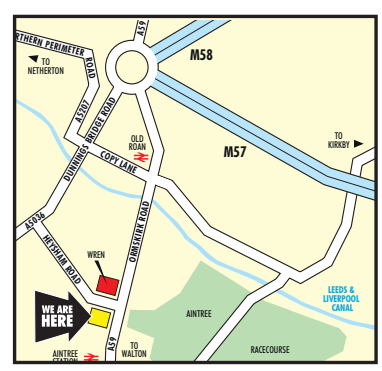

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Environmental groups invited to apply for share of new charity fund

Report by **Danielle Thompson**

Grants from £500 to £20,000 available for 'green' projects

ENVIRONMENTAL groups in West Lancashire are being invited to apply for a slice of a new £2million charity fund for 'green' projects.

Community projects are being encouraged to apply to the fund launched recently thanks to support from players of the People's Postcode Lottery.

The Postcode Local Trust, a grant–awarding charity funded entirely by players of the People's Postcode Lottery has been created to support local, community–based, grassroots projects with an environmental focus across the country.

The People's Postcode Lottery is a charity lottery and players play with their postcodes to win cash prizes while raising money for charities and good causes.

Exciting

The Postcode Local Trust opened to applications on Tuesday (January 5) and aims to support projects which benefit wildlife, enhance biodiversity, repair or create new green habitats utilising the skills and enthusiasm of local, grassroots organisations.

With two funding rounds in 2016, charities and community groups are able to apply for funding ranging from £500 to £20,000 to deliver projects that positively impact their local, natural environment.

Environment minister, Dr Aileen McLeod, said: "Being able to access high–quality greenspace can improve the health, wellbeing and confidence of people and communities. I welcome this funding and would encourage eligible projects across the UK to apply for a grant, which will continue the transformation of our environment and create better places to live, work and visit."

And Rebecca Whitley, trust manager of the Postcode Local Trust, said: "The first funding round of Postcode Local Trust will be open to charities and good causes across Great Britain and will allow hundreds more local, community projects to be supported by players of the People's Postcode Lottery each year.

"We know there are many exciting grassroots initiatives out there looking for support, and our straightforward application process will be welcome news for fundraisers."

For information about the trust or to apply for funding, charities and community groups can visit www.postcodelocaltrust.org.uk.

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TESTIMONIALS

Lorraine & Gary

Thank you for all your help installing our beautiful kitchen. Please pass on our thanks to George and Paul. Have a great Christmas and all the best for the new year!

Marc & Elaine

Thank you for our fantastic new kitchen - we are over the moon with it - great job!

Rita & John

We are thrilled with the finished result. The planning and the installation was executed very professionally from start to finish. Everyone worked so hard to complete the kitchen within the specified time indicated. Thank you to everyone at Cygnet Kitchens.

Pete & Ange

Thank you so much for our gorgeous kitchen, we love it!! The product and service were both excellent and we will have no hesitation recommending you.

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A NOTE FOR YOUR DIARY!

Our new Ormskirk Showroom aims to open April this year... running along side our current Ormskirk studio.

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Primary school applications deadline

PARENTS whose children are due to start primary school in 2016 are being reminded to put applying for a place on their New Year 'to do' list

The closing date for applications is Friday, January 15 and online via Lancashire County Council's website is the quickest and easiest way to apply.

Parents need to submit an application form for all children starting school, even if the child already has an older brother or sister at their preferred school.

County Councillor Matthew Tomlinson, the county's cabinet member for children, young people and schools, said: "This is a busy time of year for many people but I urge parents to remember to apply online for a primary school place for their child.

"If a family already has a child at a school, they must still apply for a place for their younger child. And if they have twins, they'll need to fill in two application forms.

"We know how important it is for parents to get the right school for their child, so we're encouraging them to apply on time to give themselves the best chance. It is important that parents include at least one of their local schools in their preferences."

Children start primary school in the September after their fourth birthday.

For more information, visit www.lancashire.gov.uk/schools or call 01772 532191 or 01772 532190.

Trust's mental health helpline reminder

WEST Lancs residents are being reminded that help is at hand for people worried about their mental health or that of someone they care about.

The Lancashire Care NHS Foundation Trust's Wellbeing and Mental Health Helpline is open 365 days a year offering an out–of–hours advice service.

The helpline provides confidential support and information to people who feel distressed and want someone to talk to or even just listen to them. It also offers wellbeing advice and support for people who may be feeling low or in distress with issues ranging from phobias and sleep problems to domestic violence or bereavement.

Feeling low at this time of year is quite common with around two million people in the UK believed to be affected by Seasonal Affective Disorder (SAD) and other mental health problems.

Lorraine Khalaf, helpline manager, said: "We are here to offer confidential support and information to people who feel distressed and want someone to talk to. We also provide general wellbeing advice to callers who may be feeling a bit low and are able to signpost them to local support groups for assistance, as well as providing a listening ear for those who feel they have no one else to talk to.

"We understand that the festive season can be especially hard for people and want people to know that we're here if they need us.

"We know that sometimes life can be difficult and there are a number of things that can make people feel low, however talking to someone can really help."

• The helpline can be contacted on 0800 915 4640 from 7 to 11pm Monday to Friday and noon to midnight on Saturdays and Sundays. For more information go to lancs–mentalhealthhelpline.nhs.uk.

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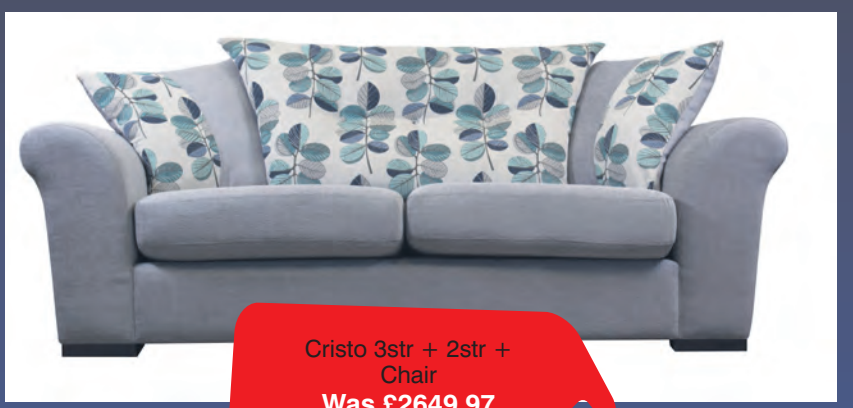

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Slimming World duo meet Aussie heartthrob at annual awards event

TWO Slimming World Consultants from West Lancashire are feeling ready to make any (weight–loss) dreams come true after meeting soap actor and popstar Jason Donovan!

Sue Alt and Tina Whewell were delighted to get a chance to cuddle up to the Australian heartthrob when he co–hosted the annual Slimming World Awards with the organisation's chair and founder Margaret Miles–Bramwell.

Tina, who runs a Slimming World group at Ormskirk Rugby Club, every Wednesday, said meeting Jason was a wonderful way to round off a fabulous year.

"I feel so lucky to play even a small part in people's achievements and felt very honoured to represent our Slimming World groups when I met Jason."

Jason, who first found fame in Neighbours before launching a pop music and stage career, said he was thrilled to meet Tina and Sue at the event, at Birmingham's International Convention Centre.

He said: "I've been in the business for some time now and like to think I've improved with age and experience – and it certainly sounds like Slimming World's going from strength to strength too as they enter their 47th year of helping people to lose weight."

Sue, who runs Slimming World groups at The Ashurst Centre, Skelmersdale on Mondays and at St Anne's Catholic Primary School, Ormskirk on Saturdays, said: "Lots of people will be making resolutions to lose weight and improve their health this New Year. What I love is that while our members lose weight, they also grow in confidence and happiness – we joke the only thing that gets bigger at our groups is our smiles!"

Slimming World Consultants Tina Whewell and Sue Alt meet former soap star and singer Jason Donovan

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Sefton travel entrepreneur takes a stand on cost of holidays during half term

by our Travel Reporter

WITH the Government being urged to take action to reduce the prices families are being charged for holidays during half term, one local travel company has taken a stand.

Sefton travel entrepreneur, Daniel Reilly, who operates JetsGo Holidays, has pledged to help families who find themselves being priced out of a summer holiday during the half–term periods.

JetsGo Holidays recently announced new services from Manchester Airport to Majorca in Spain which will start from May, and MD Mr Reilly has taken little time addressing the increasingly frustrating issue hitting many hard working Sefton families who have to decide between paying extortionate prices for a holiday, or risk a fine and possible court action by taking their children out of school during term–times.

Daniel expressed his sympathy for parents and recalls how his own childhood often benefited from the holidays he would go on with his family.

"Personally I am of the opinion that taking a holiday during term–time does not really affect a childs learning outside of the important exam years, in fact holidays are a great way to teach children about the history, customs and languages of other cultures, something that isn't appreciated as much when read out of a text book.

"My own family used to take me out of school for a week on a holiday usually around May when I was little and this was quite normal back in the 90's, it's not exactly had an impact on our generation, especially with record numbers going to university prior to these new laws coming in."

The new laws introduced by then education secretary Michael Gove in September 2013 mean parents who take their children out of school during term–time are reported to their local authorities who fine each parent £60 per child – this rises to £120 if it is not paid within 21 days.

Exceptional

In extreme circumstances, those that fail or refuse to pay can face prosecution with a maximum fine of £2,500 or a jail sentence of up to three months.

Previously, head teachers were able to grant 10 days' leave in "exceptional circumstances", meaning that many schools could allow up to two weeks of term–time holidays a year, but the stricter rules mean a holiday cannot be classed as an exceptional circumstance.

In an attempt to help those families avoid the fines, JetsGo Holidays has kept a lid on those costs it has under its control.

"Although we cannot control how much the hotels want to charge, and ultimately they do put their prices up during the peak periods, we are doing what we can to keep the other costs down for customers.

"We are finding this is having a good impact on our prices to the point where we actually currently have a three star all inclusive holiday available from only £378 per person for the May half–term, this shows what can be done when holiday companies try" explains Maghull born Daniel.

JetsGo Holidays are hoping that their approach will prove popular and help more families to take a holiday next summer, plus they can also be booked with low deposits from £75 per person making it more affordable and easier to secure the best deals early and pay for them later.

Majorca flights and holidays are available from May 28, departing every Saturday and are available to book online at jetsgoholidays.com or by calling JetsGo Holidays on 020 3795 8664 (local rate number).

Flight boss in price pledge to help families

Travel entrepreneur Daniel Reilly

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Enjoy an evening of fun and laughter

AUDIENCES will be able to enjoy an evening of laughter at The Atkinson this Saturday (January 9).

The Laugh Out Loud Comedy Club will be returning to the venue with Rob Rouse, Vince Atta and Tom Lucy at 8pm.

Rob Rouse will be headlining the night. Since winning Channel 4's prestigious So You Think You're Funny? competition at the Edinburgh Festival in 1998 (previously won by Peter Kay, Dylan Moran and Lee Mack) Rob has gone on to be one of most sought after comedians in the country.

With a plethora of TV credits including Channel 4's 8 Out Of 10 Cats, The Friday Night Project, ITV's Celebrity Juice (with Keith Lemon), BBC3's Comedy Shuffle with Rob Rouse and most recently seen on Dave's One Night Stand.

Vince Atta's high–octane performance, delivery and impressions has been described as leaving people short of breath.

He has a spectrum of material ranging from students to psychotic London ex–girlfriends. It is said he has an ability to turn experience into bullet proof comedy.

Rob Rouse Code NA

He's a multi–award winning comic including the much–coveted City Life Comedian Of The Year Award following in the footsteps of Peter Kay, Caroline Aherne, and Jason Manford.

Tom Lucy is something of a unique child prodigy. He's the youngest comedian ever to play professionally at the Comedy Store in London and at just 18 years old is one of the youngest comedians working professionally on the UK circuit.

Having first tried stand up at the age of 16, he now performs regularly for some of the country's top comedy clubs and in the last six months, he has supported the likes of Jack Whitehall and Harry Hill on tour.

Jazz festival set to get into full swing at hotel

THE 12th Jazz on a Winter's Weekend festival is coming to The Royal Clifton Hotel in Southport.

Over 70 top flight musicians will congregate at the event, which takes place from Friday, February 5 to Sunday, February 7.

UK jazz is represented by top stars like Alec Dankworth's band, including his daughter, singer Emily.

Britain's number one jazz pianist David Newton brings a quartet with Iain Dixon, Matt Miles and Steve Brown.

Alan Barnes and fellow reeds maestro Dave O'Higgins play on Sunday with an all–star line up octet.

Veteran jazz guitarist Jim Mullen guests with former pupil Neil Burns's trio.

This year's conservatoire orchestra is the Royal Northern College of Music Big Band with guest trumpeter Ryan Quigley.

Rising star vocalist Ben Cox's band opens the festival on Friday.

From New York, multi–reeds player and composer Patrick Cornelius has assembled a US–UK octet including fellow Americans Nick Vyenas, Paul Wiltgen and bassist Michael Janisch.

Manhattan stalwarts Frank Basile, Mike Kam and Jeb Patton join the Fishwick brothers and Osian Roberts in a high octane sextet.

The Scando–European input includes third time festival visitor and Norwegian genius Marius Neset's quartet.

Coming for the first time is singer, song–writer and instrumentalist Mads Mathias, already a star in his native Denmark.

The Alec Dankworth Spanish Accents Code NA

Bringing a touch of Parisian magic is violinist Daniel John Martin.

Festival director for all the 12 years of the event Geoff Matthews said: "It's fantastic to get peer group recognition for what we do for sheer love of the music.

"We set out to develop an event that made it worthwhile for jazz fans to brave the winter weather to listen to a programme of concerts that brought together the tops in UK contemporary jazz, blended with highly regarded bands from Europe, Scandinavia and America – a mix that enthusiasts from far and wide just couldn't pop into their local jazz haunts to hear.

"We've also been strong on newly emerging talent and new music, without losing that essential ingredient, respect for the classic roots of jazz; and to cram it all into one weekend of 11 two hour concerts and a fringe of related talks, exhibitions, a workshop and more music."

When asked what sort of music can visitors expect? Geoff responded: "A joyous mix of smooth vocals and some small group driving bebop; rich big band sounds, virtuoso swinging violin, unique Norwegian explosive creativity and Spanish flamenco–jazz fusion; the UK premiere of a new Suite inspired by the poetry of AA Milne plus brilliant arrangements rooted in the familiar classic jazz era of Duke Ellington, Dexter Gordon and Sonny Stitt. All delivered by some of the best improvising jazz musicians on the scene."

For more information ring 01704 541790, or logonto www.jazzinsouthport.co.uk

henry.james@champnews.com

Jodie Prenger starring in musical on life in Big Apple

FOLLOWING her acclaimed performance in the Watermill's 2014 production of Calamity Jane, Jodie Prenger now steps into Andrew Lloyd Webber and Don Black's classic musical, Tell Me On A Sunday.

Tell Me On A Sunday, which can be seen at Southport Theatre on Saturday, April 23 at 7.30pm, charts the romantic misadventures of a young English girl called Emma in New York in the heady days of the 1980's.

Brimming with optimism, Emma seeks success and love. But as she weaves her way through the maze of the city and her own anxieties, frustrations and heartaches she begins to wonder whether she's been looking for love in all the wrong places.

Jodie became famous for starring as Nancy in the 2009 production of Oliver at the Theatre Royal Drury Lane after winning the BBC talent programme, I'd Do Anything.

This iconic musical, with a famous original score, features Unexpected Song the chart–topping Take That Look Off Your Face and title track Tell Me on A Sunday.

Originally conceived for television, Tell Me On A Sunday has been performed by many musical theatre stars including Marti Webb and Sarah Brightman.

This new 2016 production directed by Paul Foster includes an intimate post–show chat with Jodie about life, love and playing the role of Emma in the musical.

Andrew Lloyd Webber's numerous awards include seven Tonys, three Grammys, seven Olivier's, a Golden Globe, an Oscar, two Emmys and the Richard Rodgers Award for Excellence in Musical Theatre.

Don Black is an Oscar winning lyrist (Born Free) and penned numerous James Bond theme tunes, and chart hits including Michael Jackson's Ben and Lulu's 'To Sir With Love'

For more information log on to www.atgtickets.com/southporttheatre

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80's Mania

JANUARY

SUN 24th
THE LEGENDARY
JOE BROWN IN CONCERT

FRI 29th
80'S MANIA 2016
More than 35 chart-topping hits from Europe's top tribute show

FEBRUARY

SAT 6th
SOUL EXPLOSION
Featuring JIMMY JAMES & THE VAGABONDS, CLEM CURTIS (The Foundations) and ERNESTINE PEARCE (The Flirtations)

SAT 13th
AMERICAN SUPERSLAM WRESTLING
Superb family entertainment

FRI 19th
ABBA REUNION

SAT 20th
WHITNEY – QUEEN OF THE NIGHT
A celebration of the music and life of Whitney Houston

MON 29th
THE WORLD FAMOUS MOSCOW STATE CIRCUS
featuring back-flipping, juggling, wire-walking and roller-skating performers

MARCH

FRI 4th
CHICAGO BLUES BROTHERS
Jailbreak Tour

SAT 5th
THE AMAZING VOCAL TALENTS OF
JOE LONGTHORNE

MON 7th
RENOWNED TV CHEF
JAMES MARTIN
Plates, Mates and Automobiles

FRI 11th
TOTALLY TINA
A tribute to the Queen of Rock, Tina Turner

THU 17th
THE BOOTLEG BEATLES
All the classic Beatles hits!

SAT 19th
THE ILLEGAL EAGLES
The world's official No 1 Eagles tribute

SUN 20th (12pm-3pm)
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CLOTHING

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2PSP GAMES 22 psp games there's football golf Street football gti sponge bob action ones racing ones all lots more £30 +447518056465

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WI COMPLETE Wi games, controller board etc, £50 £50 07546254448

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HOUSE AND HOME

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FIRE SURROUND with design VGC may deliver £20 07954115962

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REPRODUCTION HI FI/STORAGE UNIT H28ins/W21ins/D18inswith lifting lid and one interior moveable shelf. Unit has 2 front doors shaped wavelike (ie not flat) and a polished surface. VGC. A bargain at £90 o.n.o. 07821417560

REPRODUCTION REGENCY piece of furniture excellent condition height 36inch surplus to requirement top for ornament drawer and 2 shelves £10 07851192684

HOUSE AND HOME

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RUG silver grey heavy carpet shag pile size 8 foot x 5 foot excellent condition £50 07707654390

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SPIN DRYER WHITE KNIGHT Spin Dryer – White Capacity: 4 kg 2800 rpm spin speed excellent condition £45 07743751900

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TV STAND GLASS for large TV. FIREPLACE fet and chrome fittings £20 07786 298207

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ROOF RACK Paddy Hopkirk as new with extra fittings £30 07947144728

MOTHER AND BABY

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HOUSE AND HOME

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KAY Albert

4th January 2010

You were a loving Husband, and the world's most caring Dad.
Just the kindest, funniest Pops, that a family ever had.
You left us so heartbroken, but you didn't go alone, for a part of us went with you, when the Angels called you home.

Always loved & missed by your loving Wife Margaret, Daughters Shirley & Sandra, Son-in-laws Simon & Gregg, Grandchildren James, Ellie, Lydia & Clara

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

BLUNDELL GILBERT

The family of the late Gilbert Blundell would like to express their sincere thanks to all relatives, friends and neighbours who have supported them in their sad loss, through expressions of sympathy, cards and donations to North West Ambulance. Special thanks also to Revd. Neville Jarrett for a wonderful service to celebrate Gil's life and to Wendy Maxwell of Howard's Funeral Directors for her dignified and efficient arrangements.

DEATHS

CRITCHLEY Albert (Bert)

Passed away peacefully at home on 29th December 2015, aged 87 years

Beloved husband of Eunice, devoted dad of Lawrence and Debbie, loving grandad of Hazel, Amy, Sarah, Dawn and Tom. Loving father-in-law of Tina and Rob. Loved with a love beyond all telling, missed with a heartache beyond all tears. Funeral service to take place at Southport Crematorium on Wednesday 13th January 2016 at 1.20pm. Family flowers only please but donations if so desired are gratefully being received for Queenscourt Hospice and Hooton Park Trust (RAF). For further enquiries please contact Hunters Funeral Directors, 128b Burscough Street, Ormskirk L39 2EY. Tel 01695 572997

PRAYER

Novena

To be said every hour for nine consecutive hours and promise publication.

O God who has said "Ask and you shall receive, seek and you shall find, knock and it shall be opened unto you", I know, I seek, I ask that my prayers be answered (Request).

O God who has said "All that you ask of the Father in My name will be granted" - I humbly and urgently request the Father in Thy name that my request be granted (Request).

O God who has said "Heaven and earth shall pass away but my word shall not". Through the intersession of Mary Thy Most Holy Mother, I feel confident that my prayers will be answered (Request).

KB

IN MEMORIAM

KILLEEN Beryl

9th January

Birthday Memories

We never need
a special day,
To bring you
to our mind,
For days without
a thought of you,
Are very hard to find.
Happy Birthday
With loving wishes
from Ronnie.
Andrew and
family.

6124655

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

HORNBY Tom

R.I.P

Doreen and her family would like to say thank you to all relatives, friends and neighbours for the thoughtful, kind and heartfelt expressions offered after the sad loss of Tom. Sincere gratitude to the Paramedics, Ambulance Service and Police for helping Tom with such care and dignity on Shakespeare Street during such a traumatic time. Special thank you to Father John Gaine for his kind ministrations and words of comfort which have helped the family so greatly and continue to offer strength to cope. Finally, words are not enough, but a great big thank you to Carl Howard and team at Howard's Funeral Directors for such a personal and caring funeral that made such a tragic loss easier to bear.

DEATHS

GRIFFIN John

My older brother and uncle to Jeffrey

Passed away Christmas Day

Will miss you forever

Love always
from your younger sister Joyce, Jeffrey and Nicola

xxx

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DEATHS

DOYLE Christopher Denham

24th December 2015
Peacefully at his home in Skelmersdale aged 59 years

The dearly loved husband of Joan, loving dad of Christopher, Raymond, Michael and Gary, a devoted grandad and great grandad, much loved son of Sadie (deceased) and Raymond, dear brother of Marian, Alan and Carole, brother and uncle to all his family. Funeral service at St Richards RC Church, Skelmersdale on Thursday 7th January 2015 at 10.30am followed by interment at St Helens Cemetery. All enquiries to H Hardman & Co., Independent Family Funeral Directors of Skelmersdale. Tel 01695 722122/720012

DEATHS

DOYLE Christopher Denham

OUR DAD
Passed away peacefully at home on the 24th December 2015

You were someone kind and special, you meant the world to us,
You helped us through the bad times without complaint or fuss,

But now you are sleeping and called to heaven above,
When our eyes have dried from weeping, we'll still have our father's love.

Rest in peace Dad

Broken hearted sons Christopher, Raymond, Michael and Gary and all their families

DEATHS

DOYLE Christopher Denham (Denny)

24th December 2015
Aged 59 years

On the long road of suffering,
you found a little lane,
It took you to the gates of heaven and ended all your pain.

Memories are a gift to treasure, those of you will last forever.

Rest in peace Denny, heartbroken brother Alan, sister in law Mary and family

DEATHS

WALMSLEY Lily

25th December 2015

Aged 97 passed away peacefully at home.

Wife of Robert, Mother of Carol and Roy, Nan to Mark and Deborah and Great Nan to Kathryn and Matthew. Funeral Service to take place at Ormskirk Parish Church on Friday 15th January 2016 at 11.00am. Family flowers only but donations if so desired to Queenscourt Hospice. For further enquiries please contact Hunters Funeral Directors 128B Burscough Street Ormskirk L39 2EY Tel:01695 572997

DEATHS

TYLER Peggy

On 20th December 2015

Suddenly but peacefully at home. Aged 85 years

Peggy will be very sadly missed by all her family and friends, funeral service will take place at Upholland Methodist Church on Thursday 7th January at 2.15pm followed by committal at St Helens Crematorium. Family flowers only please by request. Donations if desired for Upholland Methodist Church. All enquiries Margaret Whitelam Skelmersdale Funeral Service 29/31 Sandy Lane. Tel 01695 559868

DEATHS

ANDERSON Sally

(Formerly Sally Jones)
28th December 2015

After a courageous battle

She was so very loved and will be sorely missed. Funeral service at St Peter's Church, Freshfield on Tuesday 12th January at 12 noon. This will be followed by a cremation at Southport Crematorium (for family and close friends). Bright colours please – no Black Ties. Family flowers only please. But donations if desired to 'The Christie' c/o Coyne Bros., 3 Old Mill Lane, Formby L37 3PE. 01704 873899

DEATHS

DOYLE Christopher Denham (Denny)

24th December 2015
Aged 59 years

Our lips do not tell how we loved you,
our hearts cannot tell how we feel,
But God only knows how we miss you and this lonely feeling is real,
Lonely are our lives without you, life to us is not the same,
All the world would be like heaven if we could have you back again.

Rest in peace Denny, broken hearted sister Carole, brother in law Stephen and family

DEATHS

DOYLE Christopher Denham

MY BEAUTIFUL HUSBAND
Passed away peacefully at home on the 24th December 2015, aged 59 years

Little did I know that day, that God would call your name, in life I loved you dearly, in death I'll do the same.

It broke my heart to lose you, but you did not go alone, for part of me went with you, the day God called you home.

You left me peaceful memories, your love is still my guide, and though I cannot see you, you are always by my side.

Rest in peace my darling, I will love you to the end of time. Your broken hearted wife Joan

DEATHS

BRADLEY Frank Dennison

24th December 2015

Peacefully at his home in Ormskirk. Aged 86 years.

The dearly loved husband of Jeanie, loving dad of Margaret and Ruth, devoted grandad of Rachel, Matthew and Thomas and great grandad to Eve and Pippa. Funeral service at Ormskirk Parish Church on Wednesday 13th January 2016 at 1.30pm followed by cremation at Southport Crematorium. All enquiries to H Hardman & Co., Independent Family Funeral Directors of Ormskirk. Tel: 01695 581769 / 720012.

DEATHS

FENLON Matthew

On 18th December 2015, aged 69 years

A loving husband, devoted dad and grandad. Funeral service will take place at St Helens Crematorium on Friday 8th January at 10am. Family flowers only please but if desired donations are being gratefully received for Queenscourt Hospice. Donations and enquiries to Gornalls Funeral Service, 10 Cross Pit Lane, Rainford, Merseyside WA11 8AH. Telephone 01744 886544.

DEATHS

BARRETT PHILOMENA (Philly)

26th December 2015

Aged 78

Our Aunt and Great Aunt, sadly passed away at Silver Birch Nursing Home, Aughton

Funeral Service at Our Lady's Catholic Church, Southport Road, Lydiate on Thursday 14th January 2016 at 10am. Family flowers only and donations to Dementia UK. Enquiries to MLS Funeral Directors 01695 424888.

DEATHS

BOLLINGTON Gary Alexander

27th December 2015

Aged 57 years.

Much loved husband of Yvonne, a loving father and grandfather. He will be greatly missed by all his family and friends. Service at Southport Crematorium on Thursday 14th January at 2:00pm. Donations are being gratefully received in lieu of flowers for Dr. Hadwen Trust. Donations and enquiries to Howard's Funeral Directors, 19a Banastre Road, Southport, PR8 5AW. Telephone: 01704 500086.

DEATHS

DOYLE Christopher Denham (Denny)

24th December 2015
Aged 59 years

A loving son so gentle and kind,
what a wonderful memory he left behind,

Long days, long nights, he bore his pain, to wait for a cure but all in vain,

Till God himself knew what was best, he took him home and gave him rest.

Rest in peace son

Your heartbroken Dad

DEATHS

DOYLE Christopher Denham (Denny)

24th December 2015
Aged 59 years

God saw you getting tired, a cure was not to be, So he put his arms around you and whispered "come to me" A golden heart stopped beating, hard working hands at rest, God broke our hearts to prove to us, he only takes the best

Rest in peace Denny, broken hearted sister Marian, brother in law Peter and family

DEATHS

GRIFFIN John

Passed away 25th December 2015

Aged 76 years

Very much loved by wife Muriel. Father to John and Paul (Decd). A grandfather and very much loved uncle.

Funeral service at St. Paul's Church Skelmersdale on Thursday 7th January at 11.00am.

Family flowers only but if desired donations to Cancer Research. Enquiries to Devonport Funeral Services 01695 731199

DEATHS

STURDY Paul William

22nd December 2015
Unexpectedly in hospital aged 72 years.

Loving husband of the late Carol, devoted dad of Simon, Stewart and Howard, dear father in law of Clare, cherished grandad and great grandad of all his grandchildren, much loved partner of Sheila and caring brother of Tony and Carys, will be sadly missed by all his family and friends. Funeral service will take place at St Ann's Church Rainhill on Tuesday 12th January at 12:00 (noon) followed by interment at Widnes Cemetery. All enquiries Margaret Whitelam Skelmersdale Funeral Service 29/31 Sandy Lane Tel: 01695-559868

DEATHS

WALKER Margaret (Peggy)

26th December 2015

Aged 87 years. Formerly of Ainsdale.

Greatly missed by all her dear friends. Service at Southport Crematorium on Monday 11th January at 3.20 pm. Donations are being gratefully received for N.S.P.C.C. Donations and enquiries to Howard's Funeral Directors, 82 Station Road, Ainsdale, PR8 3HW. Telephone: 01704 577786.

DEATHS

GUCLU Irene

(Formerly Rydings - Nee Freeman)

24th December 2015

Aged 65 years.

Loving and best mum to Louise, mother-in-law to Carl, devoted nannie to Jack and Emma. Greatly missed by all her family and friends. Service at Southport Crematorium on Friday 8th January at 12:40 pm. Family flowers only please but if desired donations are gratefully received for Roy Castle Lung Cancer Foundation. Donations and enquiries to Howard's Funeral Directors, 19a Banastre Road, Southport, PR8 5AW. Telephone: 01704 500086

PUBLIC NOTICES

THE LANCASHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
(CYCLE PATH – SOUTHPORT ROAD, SCARISBRICK, WEST LANCASHIRE BOROUGH)
(TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF THROUGH TRAFFIC) ORDER 2015

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Lancashire County Council have made an Order under **Section 14(1) (a) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984**, as amended, the effect of which will be to temporarily prohibit any cycles from proceeding over that length of the cycle path on Southport Road, Scarisbrick from a point at the Bridge over Boundary Brook to a point 50 meters South East of 186 Southport Road, in the Borough of West Lancashire

An alternative route for vehicles affected by the closure is as follows:

No Diversion- Cycle Path.

The temporary prohibition is necessary to install new 400PE water main.

The prohibition will be operative from 0900 hours on Wednesday 6th January 2016 until 1700 hours on Sunday 15th May 2016, or until completion of the works within this period.

Authority given for this Order to be made:

Laura Padden, Highway Regulation and Inspection Manager Lancashire Highway Services, 0300 123 6701

[Ref: HRiT/901/HD]

Lancashire County Council

Some schools are excluded as commitment is on an individual basis.

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THE LANCASHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
(DRUMMERSDALE LANE, SCARISBRICK, WEST LANCASHIRE)
(TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF THROUGH TRAFFIC) ORDER 2015

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Lancashire County Council have made an Order under **Section 14(1) (a) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984**, as amended, the effect of which will be to temporarily prohibit any motor vehicle from proceeding over that length of Drummersdale Lane from a point outside the property known as Brookside for a distance of 490 metres in a Westerly direction, in the Borough of West Lancashire.

An alternative route for vehicular traffic affected by the closure is via:- Drummersdale Lane – Bescar Lane – B5242 Hall Lane – B5242 Damwood Lane – Drummersdale Lane and vice versa

The temporary prohibition is necessary to allow telecommunications works to be carried out.

The prohibition will be operative daily between 0930 hours and 1530 hours on Thursday 14th January 2016 until Friday 15th January 2016, or until completion of the works within this period.

Laura Padden, Highway Regulation and Inspection Manager Lancashire Highway Services, 0300 123 6701

[Ref: HRiT/15/1190/ARH]

Lancashire County Council

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NOTICE OF PROPOSAL
ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
LANCASHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
(ROBIN HOOD LANE, CHEQUER LANE AND PIMBO LANE, WEST LANCASHIRE BOROUGH)
(REVOCATION AND INTRODUCTION OF 30MPH AND 40MPH SPEED RESTRICTION) ORDER 201*

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Lancashire County Council propose to make the above Traffic Regulation Order under Sections 83 and 84 of and Part IV of Schedule 9 to the **Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984**, as amended, the effect of which will be to:

1) Revoke,
a) "The District Council Of West Lancashire (Various Roads, Crawford) (30 Mph Speed Limit) Order 1979" insofar as it relates to Ormskirk Road, Chequer Lane and Pimbo Lane from the junction with Newgate Road (A577) to a point 335 metres south of the point where Pimbo Lane crosses the centre line of the Wigan - Liverpool railway line.
b) "The District Council of West Lancashire (Pimbo Lane, Up Holland) (30mph Speed Limit) Order 1997" is hereby revoked in full.
2) Introduce a 40mph speed restriction on Robin Hood Lane, Wrightington, from a point 39 metres north west of the centreline of A5209 Hall Lane in a north westerly then north easterly direction for a distance of approximately 1,100 metres to a point 271 metres north west of the centreline of Courage Low Lane.
3) Introduce a 30mph speed restriction on the following lengths of road
a) Chequer Lane, from a point 10.5 metres north of the centreline of Ravenhead Lane in a generally southerly direction to its junction with Pimbo Lane.
b) Pimbo Lane, from its junction with Chequer Lane in a generally southerly direction to a point 186 metres north east of the centreline of Long Lane.

A copy of the draft Order and associated documents for proposing to make the Order may be inspected during normal office hours at the offices of the Joint Managing Directors, West Lancashire Borough Council, PO Box 16, 52 Derby Street, Ormskirk, L39 2DF and at the offices of The Director of Governance Finance & Public Services, Lancashire County Council, Christ Church Precinct, County Hall, Preston PR1 8XJ. Any representations or objections (specifying the grounds on which they are made) relating to the proposal must be made in writing and should be sent to The Director of Governance, Finance & Public Services, Lancashire County Council, P O Box 78, County Hall, Preston PR1 8XJ or by e-mail to tro-consultation@lancashire.gov.uk **quoting ref:LSG4\894.565\DJ** before the 4th February 2016.

Ian Young, Director of Governance, Finance and Public Services
6th January 2016

Lancashire County Council

www.lancashire.gov.uk

THE LANCASHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
(SOUTHWAY LINK ROAD, SKELMERSDALE, WEST LANCASHIRE)
(TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF THROUGH TRAFFIC) ORDER 2015

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Lancashire County Council have made an Order under **Section 14(1) (a) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984**, as amended, the effect of which will be to temporarily prohibit any motor vehicle from proceeding over that length of the Southway link road from its junction with Southway north bound carriageway to its junction with Southway south bound carriageway, in the borough of West Lancashire.

An alternative route for vehicular traffic affected by the closure is via:-

Southway – B5312 Grimshaw Road - Southway.

The temporary prohibition is necessary to enable telecommunication works to be carried out.

The prohibition will be operative overnight from 2100 hours until 0600 hours on Tuesday 19th January 2016 until Thursday 21st January 2016, or until completion of the works within this period.

Laura Padden, Highway Regulation and Inspection Manager
Lancashire Highway Services, 0300 123 6701

[Ref: 15/1318/ARH]

Lancashire County Council
www.lancashire.gov.uk

THE LANCASHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
(A5209 ALDER LANE, PARBOLD, WEST LANCASHIRE BOROUGH)
(TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF THROUGH TRAFFIC) ORDER 2015

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Lancashire County Council have made an Order under **Section 14(1) (a) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984**, as amended, the effect of which will be to temporarily prohibit any motor vehicle or cycle from proceeding over that length of A5209 Alder Lane, from its junction with Bradshaw Lane for a distance of 25 metres in an easterly direction, in the Borough of West Lancashire.

An alternative route for vehicles affected by the prohibition is as follows;

A5209 Alder Lane – B5246 Lancaster Lane – The Common – Station Road – Mill Lane – A5209 Alder Lane and vice versa

The temporary prohibition is necessary to enable essential repairs to inspection chamber to be carried out.

The prohibition will be operative from 0830 hours to 1530 hours on Sunday 17th January 2016 or until completion of the works within this period.

Laura Padden, Highway Regulation and Inspection Manager
Lancashire Highway Services, 0300 123 6701

[Ref: HRiT/15/1080/ARH]

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PUBLIC NOTICES

HILDA MARY MALIA
(Deceased)

Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925, notice is hereby given that any persons having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the above named, late of 32 Truscott Road, Burscough, Ormskirk, Lancashire L40 7SF, who died on 9/9/2015 are required to send written particulars to the undersigned on or before 14/3/2016, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to the claims and interests of which they have had notice.

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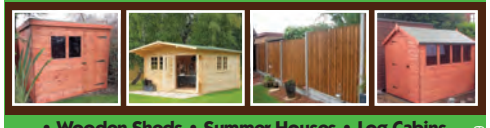
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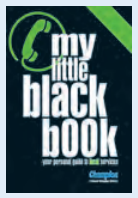

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ONLY TEN THOUSAND MILES.....**£7,995**

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2008 (08) VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.4 LIFE 5DR, in silver, with A/C e/pack, ABS, CD etc, only 50,000 miles.....**£3,495**

2008 (58) VAUXHALL ZAFIRA 1.6 DESIGN, in silver, with A/C, e/pack, ABS, CD etc only 50,000 miles.....**£4,995**

2008 (58) PEUGEOT 308 S 5DR, in slate grey, with A/C, e/pack, alloys, CD etc, only 49,000 miles.....**£3,995**

2007 (07) VAUHALL ASTRA SRI AUTOMATIC 5DR in silver, with A/C, e/pack, alloys, CD etc, only 55,000 miles.....**£3,495**

Champion MOTORS

Top Gear has some great new presenters but you won't be one

Life On Cars
DAVID SIMISTER
www.lifeoncars.blogspot.com

The old Top Gear trio are now working on a new show for Amazon Code NA

AT LEAST one of my fellow motoring scribes has found out the hard way. That they – perhaps rather predictably – haven't got the job of being a Top Gear presenter.

I bet I wasn't the only one unsurprised by reports over the festive break that Chris Evans has signed up three already high profile petrolheads to join him on next year's revival of the world's most watched car show. David Coulthard will be instantly familiar to anyone who knows even the faintest amount about F1. Sabine Schmitz has appeared on Top Gear twice already – including the brilliant piece about lapping the Nürburgring in a Transit van – and Chris Harris is already a petrolhead phenomenom, having translated his success at evo, Autocar and Jalopnik into more than a million YouTube channel subscribers.

Personally, I reckon the revived show will have a shaky start but providing the Daily Mail doesn't strangle it at birth it'll evolve into some great petrolhead telly. Three telly naturals who know their cars, led by a classic car collector and the creative nous behind TFI Friday. It deserves to be a good show.

It's just a shame about the thing that had us all on tenterhooks – the audition process itself.

Back in June – following the rather dramatic dismantling of the old show – the Beeb announced it was looking for presenters to join CarFest organiser Chris on the 2016 series.

All you needed to be was over 17 and love cars – and Chris was adamant you didn't need to be famous to be in with a fighting chance of landing the world's best job. Yet by casting three already high profile petrolheads it's hard to believe that was ever the case.

Which is exactly why I didn't send in my 30 seconds of fame to Chris' colleagues. I feel bad for the people I know in motoring journalism who did, but worse for all those 18–year–old Top Gear addicts who sent in their clips, thinking that maybe, just maybe, they'd get that phone call.

Don't get me wrong – all three presenters sound like superb choices, and the last thing I'd have wanted Chris to do was go even further down the 'it could be you' route by turning the audition into an automotive version of The X Factor.

I just wish they'd put the job ads up on LinkedIn or something. Telling the world's car fans it could have been them – when clearly it wouldn't – wasn't really on.

David Simister is features editor of Classic Car Weekly

MPs call for old diesel cars to be scrapped

MPs are keen to see a reduction in older diesel cars on the road

THE Government should be doing more to encourage owners of older diesel cars to scrap their vehicles, an influential group of MPs has suggested. The Environmental Audit Committee has recommended the introduction of a nationwide diesel scrappage scheme – similar to the one proposed last year by London mayor Boris Johnson. The Government hasn't yet made any formal announcements about the scheme.

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1975 cars to become 'historic vehicles'

By David Simister

IF YOU own a vehicle made in 1975 then it's worth remembering that from April 1 it'll qualify for 'Historic Vehicle' status – meaning it's exempt from road tax. It's worth getting your paperwork together now and sending off – you'll need your V5 registration certificate, a V10 application form (which you can pick up at your nearest post office) and a current MoT certificate, but it's worth having a look at the DVLA's website at bit.ly/1PqpmQK for more information.

1975 cars like this BMW 2002 will be exempt from road tax Code NA

A1 fitted with eco engine

CAR manufacturer Audi is now offering its smallest model with a new eco–friendly three–cylinder engine.

The addition of the 1.0 litre petrol unit is one of a series of updates to the popular A1 range, with the three–door and five–door hatchback also being treated to styling tweaks and more generous levels of equipment offered as standard.

For more information and to find out other updates to the A1 range visit Audi's website via www.audi.co.uk.

Audi has treated the entire A1 range to a gentle facelift

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10 BMW 520D SE BUSINESS EDITION TOURING AUTO, black, PAS, climate, heated seats, sat nav, leather, high miles hence **£6,995**

51 BMW 530D SE TOURING AUTO, metallic blue, PAS, e/w, sat nav, alloys **£2,695**

06 VAUXHALL ASTRA TWIN TOP CONVERTIBLE, 1800cc, 5spd, red, PAS, e/windows,, C/locking, A/C, CD, alloys, 50,000 miles **£2,995**

09 VAUXHALL CORSA LIFE 1.2 5spd, 5dr, met black, PAS, E/W, C/L, A/C, ABS, service history **£2,995**

53 FORD FIESTA ZETEC 3DR 1400cc, 5spd, met silver, PAS, E/W, C/L, ABS, alloys, nice car **£1,695**

55 RENAULT CLIO 1.4 DYNAMIQUE 3dr, met silver, PAS, E/W, C/L, A/C, ABS, pan roof, 1 lady owner **£2,295**

05 CITROEN C4 COUPÉ ZXR, black, leather, A/C, e/w, ABS, alloys... **£1,695**

53 VAUXHALL CORSA 1.0 LIFE 3dr, met silver, PAS, E/W, C/L, CD, 37,000 miles only, low insurance **£1,695**

7 SEATERS

57 VAUXHALL ZAFIRA CLUB 1600cc 5spd, met blue, PAS, E/W, C/L, CD, alloys, 7 seats, great value **£2,995**

56 VAUXHALL ZAFIRA LIFE 1600cc, met grey, PAS, E/W, C/L, ABS, A/C, alloys, 7 seats, 71,000 miles **£2,695**

06 FORD FIESTA STYLE 1.25 5spd, Colorado red, PAS, e/windows, c/locking, ABS, A/C, low insurance **£1,995**

55 VAUXHALL ASTRA AUTO 1.6 5dr, met gold, PAS, e/windows, c/locking, ABS, 58,000 miles **£2,695**

05 NISSAN MICRA 1.2 S 3-dr 5spd, in met blue, PAS, e/windows, c/locking, CD, 1 owner from new **£1,295**

03 RENAULT MEGANE 1600 5spd hatch 5dr, met red, half leather, PAS, c/locking, climate, alloys **£1,295**

53 PEUGEOT 206 SW ESTATE, met blue, half leather, PAS, E/W, C/L, A/C, alloys **£1,295**

52 RENAULT SCENIC 1600cc 5spd, PAS, E/W, C/L, S/roof, lots of history **£995**

51 FORD MONDEO ZETEC 1800cc 5dr, met black **£895**

V BMW 520i SE 5spd, met blue, PAS, E/W, alloys **£950**

T ROVER 416, met green, PAS, E/W, 59k **£595**

56 SAAB 9-3 1.9 TDI 5spd, met blue, half leather, PAS E/W c/locking, ABS, alloys, e/roof **£2,395**

05 VAUXHALL ASTRA ESTATE 1600cc, met red, PAS, E/W, C/L, A/C, roof rails **£1,295**

54 HYUNDAI ELANTRA DIESEL 2.0 HATCHBACK, in met silver, leather, PAS, e/windows, c/locking **£1,295**

53 MERCEDES ML 270 CDI DIESEL AUTO 4X4, met silver, leather, PAS, e/windows, A/C, ABS **£4,295**

52 RENAULT KANGOO VAN DIESEL, 1900cc, 5spd, PAS **£895**

51 MERCEDES C180 3dr HATCH, met silver, auto, PAS, pan roof, FSH, alloys **£2,195**

51 MERCEDES ML 270 CDI 4X4 AUTO, met silver, PAS, c/locking, A/C, alloys, 1 owner **£3,295**

01 Y VW BEETLE 1600cc 5spd, met blue, PAS, electric windows & central locking **£1,895**

V LAND ROVER FREELANDER 3DR, 1800cc 5spd, PAS, E/W, C/L, alloys **£1,595**

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15 D-MAX YUKON AUTO, nautilus blue, 7,500 miles, ex demo ..... from £18,495+VAT
13 D-MAX UTAH, manual, mineral grey, canopy, FSH, 54,500 miles from £15,995+VAT
62 ISUZU D-MAX UTAH, white, 34,500 miles, sports lid ..... from £15,495+VAT
61 ISUZU MAX LE AUTO leather, sat nav, canopy, 60,176 miles ..... £13,495+VAT
02 SHOGUN LWB Diesel Equippe, met blue, 125,000 miles ..... from £2,995

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11 CONNECT T200 1.8TDCi, only 28,000 miles ..... from £5,999+VAT
11 VAUXHALL COMBO 1.3CDTi VAN, side door ..... £2,999+VAT
58 VAUXHALL ASTRAVAN 2.0CDTi AUTO, 71,000 miles, light use ..... from £3,999+VAT
09 VAUXHALL COMBO 1.3CDTi, 77,000 miles ..... £2,995+VAT
55 CONNECT 1.8TDCi, 89,000 miles side door, racking & roof rack ..... £1,895+VAT

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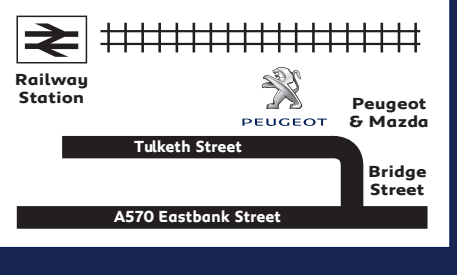

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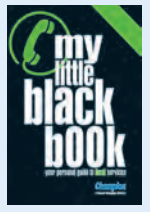

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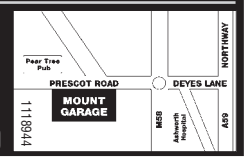

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Disappointing return to action for lacklustre Linnets

Burscough 0
Spennymoor Town 2

BURSCOUGH started the new year looking to continue the fine form they had shown in the league before the winter weather left them two weeks without a game.

The Linnets also featured three new players in the squad for this game, with Alex Honeyball – on loan from Bolton Wanderers – starting in defence and Joe Whittington from Lancaster City and Daren Askew both named as substitutes.

The game was very slow to get started with both teams' midfields controlling the early stages.

In fact, there was half–an–hour on the clock before Spennymoor had the first real chance of the game forcing Calvin Hare into the first save of the afternoon.

And the visitors nearly had a chance to go into the break ahead when a corner went just over the hands of the Burscough keeper and nearly fell to a Town player.

Fortunately the defence got to the ball first and sent it out of play for another corner which came to nothing leaving the game scoreless after a first half in which the home side had had very few chances.

It wasn't scoreless for long after the break though, as five minutes into the second half Burscough fell behind to a low, curling shot from the edge of the area by Spennymoor midfielder Shane Henry.

The home side made a double change on 65 minutes in a bid to create more chances and inject some life into a hitherto disappointing display with Karl Noon and Liam Rice making way for Joe Whittington and Daren Askew.

Sadly, it was the visitors who struck again though just five minutes later to double their lead.

Andrew Stephenson ran at the Burscough defence and had a shot which deflected off a defender and fell nicely for Liam Henderson who tapped the ball home from a few yards out.

From then on Spennymoor held on without too much trouble. Burscough will hope get back to winning ways on Saturday (January 9) when they host Witton Albion.

Double injury blow made it a struggle at Sutton

Sutton Coldfield Town 3
Skelmersdale United 1

THINGS started to go against Skem eight minutes into the match when left–back Shaun Holden twisted his knee on the artificial surface then centre–forward Yaw Gyimah joined him in the 20th minute with a twisted ankle.

Tellingly, all three Sutton goals came from or were created by the home right–winger Ryan Edmunds who Holden would have been marking.

Skelmersdale did have some luck in the tenth minute when Tom Turton, in the style of former Liverpool striker Ronny Rosenthal hit the crossbar from a few yards out when it would have much easier to score.

Sutton opened the scoring on 24 minutes when Edmunds gathered a crossfield ball wide on the right and turned back inside before sliding the ball into the path of former League player Luke Rodgers, who finished clinically.

Skelmersdale bounced back well and equalised in the 36th minute when Louis Corrigan played the ball back to Fearon, who found Tom Ince's head with a well–judged ball, Kinsella then pushed it through the Sutton defence and Chris Almond fired home.

A swift counterattack saw Skelmersdale behind at the interval when Edmunds lifted a ball from the right to the far post where O'Callaghan ran into the box and elevated himself into a position to head home.

In the second–half the Sutton defence was a much tighter unit, after receiving a roasting from their manager during the break that was audible over half the ground.

Kinsella was a danger for Skem, having a shot saved by Wren then having another deflected wide, before from the corner, a huge scramble ended in a shot that went wide.

As Skem committed men into attack tehyw ere caiugh out in the 90th minute when a punt out of defence found Edmunds who played the ball to Rodgers, who returned to ball to Edmunds as he entered the penalty area to direct his shot past the advancing Fearon.

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Skem set to face FA Cup giant killers and title favourites

Report by **Neil Leatherbarrow**

Tommy Lawson's men have good record against league's top clubs

FA Cup giant killers Salford City are Skelmersdale United's next opponents as Tommy Lawson takes his team to Moor Lane on Saturday (January 9) to face the 'moneybags' team assembled with the fortunes of former Manchester United stars Ryan Giggs, Paul Scholes, Nicky Butt and the Neville brothers Phil and Gary.

Then on Monday (January 11) Skem have another go at staging the FA Trophy replay against AFC Fylde at Stormy Corner that has been postponed twice already.

Many people will have seen the much–publicised FA Cup exploits of Salford on television over the last couple of months, knocking out Notts County and drawing with Hartlepool before succumbing in a replay in the north east.

Salford are also looking a strong bet to catch leaders Blyth Spartans in the race to be Evo–Stik Premier Division champions, sitting five points adrift of the Northumberland side but with two games in hand (one of which was scheduled to be last night at Nantwich Town).

You could be forgiven for thinking that Salford's 7–1 victory on Saturday at home to mid–table Barwell is a score that might send shivers up the spines of the Skelmersdale men, but perhaps it won't.

That romp was, quite surprisingly, only Salford's third win out of 10 homes league games this season and it is away from home that they have been more successful, winning 11 out of 12.

Add to the fact that Skelmersdale already have the scalp of Blyth Spartans tied to their belts and have points gathered at the expense of promotion–chasing Darlington and Workington in the bag and it could be concluded that United are likely to raise their game against top clubs and will not be scared by Salford's reputation.

Shaun Holden – no broken bones but set to see a specialist

If Monday's FA Trophy replay against AFC Fylde is postponed again it will be played instead – fingers crossed! – on Wednesday, January 13 at Stormy Corner.

Tommy Lawson has two new players at his disposal at Salford this week.

One is very well known and has been reported in the shape of former Southport, Burscough, Chester and Telford winger/midfielder Robbie Booth, who actually signed a few weeks ago, but because of delays involving the FA his transfer from Colwyn Bay has taken time.

The other new signing is defender Danny Murphy from AFC Liverpool a player who is apparently "highly recommended", having spent time with Everton.

On the injury front, not much is known about Yaw Gyimah's ankle injury but it is expected to take a couple of weeks to get right.

The other Saturday casualty Shaun Holden has had an x–ray on his knee and has been told there are no broken bones, although he sees a specialist tomorrow to get the results of a scan.

Tony Rendell also missed the Sutton Coldfield match with a hamstring problem, however, it is understood the extent of the injury is only a strain rather than anything more serious.

Skelmersdale's next scheduled home league game is against Stamford on Saturday, January 16, but if they beat AFC Fylde in the replay they will instead travel to Eastbourne Borough in the FA Trophy.

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SKELMERSDALE
Champion

6 January 2016 Vol 23 • Issue 1 www.champnews.com

This week's Champion is inside ...

New Year – New Start – New Opportunities
January Courses

See page 2 for details

Sophie is Flying High!

Sophie Hart, Travel & Tourism student at West Lancashire College and former Lathom High School pupil is flying high! Sophie's ambition was to work for Emirates Airlines.

Now aged 21 and after an intensive interview process she has now moved to Dubai to work for one of the world's most famous airlines! Since then she has been flying all over the world and exploring new countries. During her course she was inspired by guest speakers who told her about their experiences in the Travel Industry. Sophie commented "I would recommend studying at West Lancashire College as a route to your dream career".

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Some particular highlights of the year included excellent pass rates for students studying on a range of vocational awards in subjects such as Electrical, Health & Social Care, Performing Arts and Travel & Tourism. Students studying for Level 3 Diploma programmes [equivalent to A Levels] also achieved outstanding results, whilst students studying for English qualifications were also very successful, ensuring that they are equipped with the essential skills to be successful in employment and in life.

During the year, our students have benefitted from engaging in a full study programme, including participating in valuable work experience with local employers, a programme of volunteering and community engagement and tutorial sessions which have enabled students to develop a range of wider skills, including those focussed on progression and employability.

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Pathways (16-18)	SC
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AAT Level 2 (FFL2) IE	CFD	CFD	CFD	£549	CFD	£549	OC	02/02/2016
AAT Level 3 (FFL3) IE	CFD	CFD	CFD	£899	£75	24+LL	OC	02/02/2016
Sage Accounting Beginners	Thur	1.45pm - 4.15pm	8 wks	£99	£20	£99	SC	14/01/2016
Sage Accounting Intermediate IE	Thur	1.45pm - 4.15pm	10 wks	£125	£27	£125	SC	17/03/2016
BARBERING								
Barbering Certificate Level 3 (FFL3)	Mon	1pm - 6.30pm	18 wks	£825	£75	24+LL	SC	01/02/2016
BOOK-KEEPING								
Book-Keeping Award Level 2 ABC FC IE	Wed	6pm - 9pm	20 wks	£399	-	£399	SC	13/01/2016
COUNSELLING								
Counselling Introduction FC ③	Wed	7pm - 9pm	8 wks	£160	-	£160	SC	21/01/2016
Counselling Introduction FC ③	Wed	10am - 12noon	8 wks	£160	-	£160	OC	21/01/2016
Couselling Skills Level 2 NCFE (FFL2)	Tues	9am - 12noon	8 wks	£390	£26	£390	OC	13/01/2016
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IT AND COMPUTING								
ECDL Extra ITQ (FFL2) IE	Tue	6pm - 9pm	18 wks	£240	£32	£240	SC	13/01/2016
ECDL Extra ITQ (FFL2) IE	Tue	1.30pm - 4.30pm	18 wks	£240	£32	£240	SC	13/01/2016
MATHS								
Maths for Adults	Various	Flexible	Flexible	FREE	FREE	FREE	SC / OC	CFD
TEACHING								
Education & Training Award Level 3 - FC IE	Wed	6pm - 9pm	12 wks	£350	-	£350	SC	06/01/2016
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Assessing Competence in the Work Environment Award Level 3 VTCT	Flexible	Flexible	54 hrs	£337.50	£37.50	£337.50	WP	CFD
Assessing Vocational Achievement Certificate Level 3 VTCT	Flexible	Flexible	84 hrs	£357.80	£67.20	£357.80	WP	CFD
Assessing Vocationally Related Achievement Award Level 3 VTCT	Flexible	Flexible	54 hrs	£337.50	£37.50	£337.50	WP	CFD
Internal Quality Assurance of Assessment Processes and Practice Award Level 4 VTCT	Flexible	Flexible	90 hrs	£344	£56	£344	WP	CFD

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FFL2	First Full Level 2 19-23 (4 or more GCSEs grades A*-C or above)	K	Kirkby	③	Telephone Enrolment for those Part-Time learners who are NOT eligible for fee reduction (eg full fee payers only)
FFL3	First Full Level 3 19-23 (2 or more A Levels)	SP	Southport	24+LL	Courses where a 24+ Loan will be applicable
WLCA	West Lancashire Construction Academy	WP	Workplace	CFD	These courses are available for enrolment on a regular basis, please call for details.
SC	Skelmersdale Campus	FC	Full fee is payable		
OC	Ormskirk Campus	IE	These courses require interview at enrolment		
		F	These courses are free		

Enrolment Dates

You can enrol for any full-time, part-time, day or evening course at the dates/times stated below:

Thursday 7 January 2016 10am - 7pm Friday 8 January 2016 10am - 4pm

Skelmersdale Campus, College Way, Skelmersdale, WN8 6LH

Telephone Enrolments

Telephone enrolments will take place 7 & 8 January 2016, 10am - 4pm.

Telephone enrolments are available for those part-time learners who are NOT eligible for fee reduction (eg full fee payers only). Courses marked in the table above with a ③. You will need to use a credit or debit card to complete the payment and sign a College Learner Agreement at your first session in College.

To enrol by telephone please call:

01695 52310 / 01695 52355 / 01695 52381 / 01695 52476

What do I need to pay?

Did you know that many of our full and part time courses are free or discounted.

Tuition is funded for:

- Anyone aged 19-23 years studying a full time Entry Level/Level 1 Foundation Learning Course and does not have a prior Level 2 qualification.
- Learners undertaking a First Full Level 2 qualification aged 19-23 (4 or more GCSEs grades A*- C or above) (FFL2).
- Learners undertaking a First Full Level 3 qualification aged 19-23 (2 or more A Levels) (FFL3).
- Adults studying English or Maths Basic Skills.
- Those in receipt of Job Seeker's Allowance and Employment Support Allowance (work related activity groups).
- Adults in receipt of UCRED, unemployed and mandated by Job Centre.
- Adults in receipt of State Benefit who are unemployed and wishing to return to work.

In addition discounted tuition may be available to:

- Individuals from a low household income who are not eligible for free tuition and have a gross household income of less than £20,817. Learners are required to apply to the Discretionary Learner Support Fund for financial help towards their tuition fee.
- Those 19-23 studying a second or subsequent full level 2 will only be required to pay 50% of the standard fee payable plus exam and registration fees.
- Those 19-23 studying a second or subsequent full level 3 will only be required to pay 50% of the standard fee payable plus exam and registration fees.
- Those over 24 studying their first full level 2 will only be required to pay 50% of the standard fee payable plus exam and registration fees.

Please note

Learners Aged 24+ Studying a Full Level 3 Course / Full Level 4 / Access to HE and Advanced / Higher Apprenticeships are not funded and therefore not eligible for any fee remission.
Please note – Exam and Registration Fees may be charged dependant on eligibility.

What do I need to bring to enrolment?

16-18 Years

Please bring your GCSE Results and proof of identification to complete your enrolment.

19+ years

Please bring payment if applicable, and identification*.
If you are claiming FREE or discounted study and you are on an active or inactive benefit you will need to bring proof with you in order to complete your enrolment, please see list of accepted evidence below.
Instalment option may be available on courses over £200.

Benefit Type	Evidence Required
Job Seekers Allowance	Current Letter authorised by the Job Centre (JSA book not accepted)
Employment Support Allowance	Current Letter authorised by the Job Centre (JSA book not accepted) (Work Related Group)
Employment Support Allowance	Current Letter authorised by the Job Centre (JSA book not accepted) (none work related group)
Income Support	Current letter/bank statement
Housing/Council Tax Benefit	Payment book, letter from council or bank statement
Working Tax Credit	Current award notice
Universal Credit	Current Letter authorised by the Job Centre (JSA book not accepted)
Pension Credits	Current award notice
Household Income of less than £20,817	Proof of income eg: household payslips (3 months), P60, current award notice
24+ Learning Loan	Confirmation of Advanced Learning Loan from Student Finance England

Please note all evidence, payment of any fees and identification* must be received prior to enrolling on a course.

* Identification accepted

- Passport
- Armed Forces Service ID
- Certificate of Entitlement to Funding
- Your West Lancashire College Student ID Card
- Photo Driving Licence
- National Insurance Card
- Bank Credit/Debit Card

Learners born in the EU / EEA

For those Learners born in the EU / EEA please provide proof that you were born in the EU (passport, birth certificate etc.)

Campus Addresses

Skelmersdale Campus, College Way, Skelmersdale, WN8 6LH

Ormskirk Campus, Hants Lane, Ormskirk, L39 1PX

To find out more please contact Student Services on: 01695 52300.

FREE* Transport for full time 16-18 year olds who need a bus to get to college.

*Subject to availability & eligibility

Every effort is made to ensure that the information contained in this booklet is correct at the time of publication. We reserve the right however, to make alterations or amendments to the details contained in this document. Courses will operate subject to sufficient numbers. College access to some facilities may be restricted.

Prince's Trust

Prince's Trust Students Regional Award Winners

West Lancashire College Prince's Trust Team 42 Skelmersdale have recently celebrated winning the "Community Impact Award" at the Prince's Trust North West Celebrate Success Awards held at The Concert Hall, St Georges Hall, Liverpool.

Prince's Trust programmes offer young people aged 16-25 a unique opportunity to get into jobs, education or training. During the programme you will try new things and learn how to work with others, take part in community projects and plan your future.

We have teams starting in various locations this January.

	Start Dates
Skelmersdale	**11 January 2016**
Southport	**18 January 2016**
Kirkby	**11 January 2016**
Ormskirk	**18 January 2016**

Call 01695 52300 to find out how you can join this fantastic opportunity.

New Bistro

Coming soon to West Lancashire College, come along and dine in our new Hospitality and Training Bistro.

Designed and built specifically for delivering high level training skills to our learners, offering a high quality dining experience to the community at discounted prices. This real work environment will have a relaxed and modern theme and is the ideal location for lunch, dinner or even hosting special events.

Look out for details of our grand opening in the New Year!

Skills Week

This week students are taking part in Skills Week at West Lancashire College and are welcoming guest lecturers, attending seminars and workshops by professionals in industry.

In preparation for skills week Business students have taken part in entrepreneurial challenges. Their "Apprentice" project was to turn £10 into profit by selling electronic accessories as part of 'Project China'. This challenge allows students to identify the big sellers in the market and invest their money to make a profit.

Skills week also introduces students to company owners and professionals from their chosen industry with the aim to prepare them for the world of work. It is an essential part of our programmes of study to ensure students are as work ready as possible in today's competitive job market.

West Lancashire College would like to thank all the businesses and individuals who came to talk about their jobs and industries in order to enrich the experiences of our students and prepare them for the world of work.

For further information about courses available at West Lancashire College please contact 01695 52300 or visit www.westlancs.ac.uk

Kieron's Ambition

This year we have had so many successful students – Kieron Palin is now taking the next step in achieving his ambition!

Keiron Palin studied a 2 year Public Services programme. Kieran has recently progressed to University of Central Lancashire, UCLan studying a FdSc Degree in Policing. Kieron found the programme challenging but very rewarding and all his hard work has paid off. Kieron has advice for anyone looking to study a programme at West Lancashire College "If you are undecided what course to study at college, talk to West Lancashire College staff, they offer excellent advice and will help you to find a suitable course that will lead to your intended career path".

NOT IN COLLEGE OR WORK?

If you are 16-18 and not in college or work, West Lancashire College can help you right now

We have a range of full time courses starting this January!

Choose from:

- Film & Media
- Media Make-up
- Art & Design
- Barbering
- Sport
- Bricklaying
- Joinery
- Hairdressing & Beauty Therapy
- Professional Cookery
- Plumbing
- Plastering

These courses will give you a fresh start this January and get you back on track to your chosen career.

Find out more about how you can get back on track TODAY!

Call 01695 52300 · enquiries@westlancs.ac.uk

inbox facebook.com/WestLancashireCollege

twitter.com/WLancsCollege

West Lancashire College

www.westlancs.ac.uk Call: 01695 52300

RECRUITING
We need Apprentices Now!

If you want to earn and learn, we want to hear from you!

We offer Apprenticeships in careers such as:

- Catering & Hospitality
- Childcare
- Construction
- Business Administration
- Hairdressing
- Health & Social Care
- Electrical Installation
- Motor Vehicle
- Plumbing
- Information Technology
- Sports
- Warehousing & Logistics

Here at West Lancashire College we will work with you to help you find an Apprenticeship.

West Lancashire College

Apprenticeships

Already got an employer?
We will arrange your training and support you through the programme.

Find out more – call Vicky today on 01695 52490
Email: enquiries@westlancs.ac.uk

TRAINEESHIPS

Traineeships are designed for students who are not ready for an Apprenticeship or employment and require support and development before progressing. This programme will help with confidence and motivation to help you start your journey to your career goal.

Traineeships available:

- Equine Studies
- Business Administration
- Beauty Therapy / Nails
- Catering & Hospitality
- Hairdressing / Barbering

Start your journey today, call 01695 52300
enquiries@westlancs.ac.uk
inbox facebook.com/WestLancashireCollege
twitter.com/WLancsCollege

Traineeships

FRANCESCO HAIRDRESSING & BEAUTY ACADEMY

West Lancashire College are delighted and proud to partner with the dynamic award winning hairdressing company, Francesco Group.

Located in state-of-the-art facilities centrally in Skelmersdale the Francesco Group offers students the very best environment to train and gain skills to the highest level for industry.

Clients are offered a unique salon experience in January 2016.

Our Hair and Beauty Academy (Francesco) will be open for client bookings from Monday 4th January 2016. Treatments available include:

	Level 2	Level 3
Shampoo and Finish	£4.00	£5.00
Luxury Manicure	£3.00	£10.00
Cut and Finish	£5.00	£8.00
Luxury Pedicure	£3.00	£10.00
Full Head of Foils	£19.00	£22.00
Aromatherapy Back Massage	£6.00	

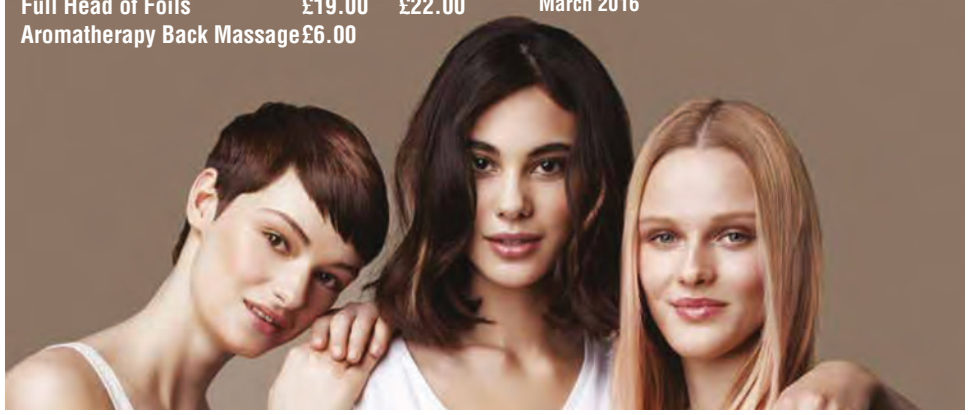
Our graduates offer cutting edge skills a professional service with high calibre customer care skills all in our state of the art salons and spa facilities.

Appointments can be booked by calling 01695 52317.

Special Offer Hairdressing
Buy 2 Get One FREE Cut & Finish***
Special Offer Beauty Therapy
Buy 2 Get One FREE Luxury Manicure* or Luxury Pedicure* or mini ½ leg wax*.**

* Level 2 Graduates only

** Limited period only – offer ends Thursday 24 March 2016



Ofsted Inspectors say
"Little Learners Nursery is Outstanding"

FREE* Nursery Places for over 2's available now.

- Purpose built Nursery for 0-5 years.
- Places also available for babies and toddlers.
- Open 50 weeks of the year.
- Opening hours 8am - 6pm.
- Healthy Menu.
- Outdoor covered play area.
- Based in Skelmersdale.
- Community nursery open to all.

little learners

Call: 01695 52559 / 52300

Email: littlelearners@westlancs.ac.uk

www.westlancs.ac.uk

Little Learners, West Lancs College, College Way, Skelmersdale, WN8 6LH

Ofsted Outstanding 2011 2012

*** Government Early Years free entitlement 15 hours per week term-time.**

West Lancashire College are opening their doors once again this year and they are inviting you to join them!

OPEN EVENING

WEDNESDAY 3 FEBRUARY
5PM – 8PM

The event will be packed full of have a go activities, demonstrations, free mini treatments, course/career information and financial guidance.

For further details on courses and training available at West Lancashire College please contact Student Services on 01695 52300 or visit www.westlancs.ac.uk